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STARS AND STRIPES®

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Free to Deployed Areas

UKRAINE UNREST



IVAN SEKRETAREV/AP

Gunmen wearing camouflage uniforms block the entrance of the Crimean parliament building in Simferopol, Ukraine, on Saturday as the discord between Russia and Ukraine sharpened. The poster reads "Crimea Russia."

Russia moves on Crimea

Approval of military use comes day after Obama warning

By DAVID MCGOUGH
AND VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV
The Associated Press

Online

Recent stories on the Ukraine crisis: stripes.com/go/ukraine

KIEV, Ukraine — Russia executed a de facto military takeover of a strategic region in Ukraine as the parliament in Moscow gave President Vladimir Putin a green light Saturday to proceed to protect Russian interests. The newly installed government in Kiev was powerless to react to the swift takeover of Crimea by Russian troops already in Ukraine and more flown in, aided by pro-Russian Ukrainian groups.

Putin's move follows Presi-

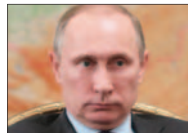
dent Barack Obama's warning Friday "there will be costs" if Russia intervenes militarily, sharply raising the stakes in the conflict over Ukraine's future and evoking memories of Cold War brinkmanship. The explicit reference to the use of troops escalated days of conflict between the two countries, which started when Ukraine's pro-Russian president was pushed out by a protest movement of people who

wanted closer ties to the European Union.

"I'm submitting a request for using the armed forces of the Russian Federation on the territory of Ukraine pending the normalization of the socio-political situation in that country," Putin said in his request sent to parliament.

Putin's call came as pro-Russian demonstrations broke out in Ukraine's Russian-speaking east, where protesters raised Russian flags and clashed with supporters of the new Ukrainian government.

SEE UKRAINE ON PAGE 11



'I'm submitting a request for using the armed forces of the Russian Federation on the territory of Ukraine.'

President Vladimir Putin request to Russian parliament

Troops return from war to discover their jobs are gone

By GREGG ZOROYA
USA Today

For thousands of career-military troops who endured combat and family separations during a dozen years of war in Iraq and Afghanistan, the end of hostilities brings a new directive from the government — your services are no longer needed.

Even as Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel said Monday that future budget reductions cut "so deep, so quickly, that we cannot shrink the size of our military fast enough," pink slips were already on their way to soldiers.

In its first effort to thin the ranks under budget pressure, the Army is letting go 3,000 GIs in order to thin ranks to 490,000 by the end of next year.

Ten Army officers — colonels and lieutenant colonels — learned

while serving in Afghanistan in January that they would be forced to retire later this year.

And those are just the first firings. Tens of thousands more must be cut in the years ahead, and the services readily admit those separations won't all be voluntary.

"Everybody who's getting looked at right now ... has to really start thinking about, 'Well, what if?'" said Army Maj. Timothy Hyde, public affairs officer

while serving in Afghanistan in January that they would be forced to retire later this year.

Activists who support troops and their families worry that a lingering war strain on an all-volunteer force — evidenced by record behavioral and physical health issues, marital struggles and even suicide — is now compounded by worry over job security.

SEE JOBS ON PAGE 2

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"We Americans love our weather. Weather is very personal to us. We use it to run our lives, and we're very emotional about it."

— Justin Roberti, spokesman for Accuweather, describing the nation's modern-day preoccupation with all things weather-related

See story on Page 14

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2. 'Scary' tattoo ban passed at popular beach for servicemembers in Japan
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BMW introduces the new breed of diesel

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Pakistani Taliban announce truce

By RIAZ KHAN
The Associated Press

PESHAWAR, Pakistan — The Pakistani Taliban announced Saturday that the group will observe a one-month cease-fire as part of efforts to negotiate a peace deal with the government, throwing new life into a foundering peace process.

Spokesman Shahidullah Shahid said in a statement emailed to reporters that the top leadership of the militant group has instructed all of its units to comply with the cease-fire.

"Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan has initiated talks with the government with sincerity and for good purpose," Shahid said, referring to the group by its formal name.

The leader of the government's negotiating team, Irfan Sadiqui, praised the cease-fire announcement while speaking on Paki-

stan's Geo Television, saying the government will review any written document from the Taliban about it.

"Today, we are seeing a big breakthrough," Sadiqui said.

In recent weeks, Pakistani jets and helicopters have been striking militant hideouts in the northwest, after previous efforts at negotiations broke down when a militant faction announced it had killed 23 Pakistani troops.

The Pakistani Taliban has been trying to overthrow the government and establish its own hard-line form of Islam across Pakistan for years. Tens of thousands of people have died in militant attacks.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has long promoted negotiations over military operations as a way to end the ongoing crisis. His efforts gained speed this year when

both sides announced negotiating teams held initial meetings. But negotiations fell apart after the deaths of the 23 Pakistani troops, and Sharif has been under pressure to retaliate for any Taliban violence.

Critics of the peace process say militants have used previous negotiations to simply regroup. They also question whether there is room to negotiate with militants who don't recognize the Pakistani constitution. The militants in the past have also called for the removal of all military forces in the tribal areas as well as an end to American drone strikes.

As the military has been hammering militant hideouts, many in Pakistan have been watching closely to see whether the government would order a large-scale ground operation in the North Waziristan tribal region that is

considered the militants' stronghold. Such an operation could spark a backlash of attacks in other parts of the country.

But a temporary cease-fire could be difficult to enforce. Some analysts point out that the Pakistani Taliban is not a unified organization, and some of the factions are not believed to support peace talks.

Violence earlier Saturday showed how difficult it could be to enforce a cease-fire, let alone forge a peace agreement.

Two bombs exploded minutes apart in northwest Pakistan, striking tribal police assigned to guard polo workers and killing 11, police said. No one claimed responsibility for the two separate bombings, but anti-polo teams and their guards have been frequently targeted in Pakistan by Islamic militants.

Jobs: Military to give thousands of war veterans pink slips

FROM FRONT PAGE

"We're seeing the legacy of stress as part of the military way of life," says Joyce Raezer, executive director of the National Military Family Association. "People won't have time to find a break, because they will remain too worried about their future."

While the U.S. military downsized after previous wars, Iraq and Afghanistan were fought with a relatively small, all-volunteer force required to deploy again and again during more than a decade of conflict, says retired vice admiral Norbert Ryan, president and CEO of the Military Officers Association of America.

"We're doing this (job reduction) on the very backs of the men and women and their families that have carried the other 99 percent of us for the last 12 years," Ryan says. "A lot of these people have borne the brunt of this war."

Small tracking surveys of military members by First Command Financial Services, a financial assistance company, show that slightly more than one in three middle-class military families now worry about job security, up from one in four last summer.

"We're seeing significantly larger apprehensions about the changes that are coming," says

Scott Spiker, First Command CEO. "Pretty amazing for a career force that spent 10 years fighting two wars."

Twenty-eight percent fear they are less likely to be promoted and 17 percent anxious over possibly losing their jobs.

Soldiers are being forced out at a time when the jobless rate for Iraq- and Afghanistan-era veterans, while declining to 7.9 percent in January, remains stubbornly higher than the nation's overall rate and unemployment among all veterans.

"We have a lot of great heroes," said Army Maj. Gen. Thomas Seamands, the Army personnel manager tasked with carrying out reductions. "We have an incredibly high-quality Army today. And some of those great soldiers who have served honorably will be asked to leave."

About 500 Army noncommissioned officers ranging from staff sergeants to command sergeants major are slated to lose their jobs this year; another 484 are receiving notices this month that they are being fired in 2015. All have been or will be given at least a year's notice to prepare, Seamands said.

The Army has involuntarily separated soldiers during at least two previous drawdowns — after

'We're seeing the legacy of stress as part of the military way of life. People won't have time to find a break because they will remain too worried about their future.'

Joyce Raezer
National Military Family Association

the Vietnam and Persian Gulf wars.

Some soldiers may lose their jobs in the middle of an enlistment, while most senior enlisted officers no longer must re-enlist but serve as long as they satisfactorily advance through the ranks, says Lt. Col. Justin Platt, a spokesman for the Army personnel department.

The Air Force is projecting a reduction of several thousand troops — the numbers as yet uncertain — through 2019, down from 327,600 today. The Marine Corps is shrinking by 5,000 each of the next three years, declining from about 190,000 today to 175,000 in 2017. And the Army could be forced to cut an additional 70,000 soldiers by 2019 if the most severe budget cuts Congress has enacted are carried out, shrinking to 420,000 active-duty soldiers.

Lt. Cmdr. Chris Servello, a

Navy spokesman, said the service reduced its ranks during the war years to 323,000 this year and does not anticipate further cuts for now.

While all services hope to meet their goals through attrition, hiring fewer people and encouraging early retirement, the Army has found that about 10 percent of any reduction winds up being soldiers who must simply be let go.

One in recent weeks was Army Col. Bryan Hilferty, who was told in January that he must retire this summer.

"Everybody wants to be loved," says Hilferty, 53, who served two deployments in Afghanistan and one in the Gulf War. "For the Army to say, 'Thank you for your service, but we no longer need you,' is not as nice as the Army saying, 'Thank you for your service, but keep working.'"

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MILITARY

US. Lack of security pact could cost Afghanistan

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The top U.S. envoy to Afghanistan said Friday if U.S. and NATO troops are not allowed to stay to advise and train Afghan forces, the country risks more widespread violence and political disintegration.

James Dobbins also said U.S. willingness to wait to sign a new security pact with the next Afghan president offers hope that a deal can still be made, but the delay could mean fewer American troops and fewer dollars for the impoverished country.

American support of the war continues to wane with Afghan President Hamid Karzai's refusal to sign a bilateral security agreement, which would provide a legal basis for some U.S. troops to stay

‘In the absence of a continued train, advise and assist U.S. and NATO military mission, Afghanistan’s descent into more widespread violence and political disintegration is likely to be more rapid.’

James Dobbins

U.S. Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan

in the country after the international combat mission ends this year. The agreement was to have been signed last fall.

“Unfortunately, President Karzai’s decision not to sign the accord that he negotiated, that he, in fact, is not seeking to change, and that he agrees is important to Afghanistan has thrown this timetable badly off,” Dobbins said in a speech at the United

States Institute of Peace.

On Tuesday, President Barack Obama told Karzai that he’s open to waiting until later this year to conclude the bilateral security agreement with Karzai’s successor but that “this delay would not be without cost.” Despite widespread support in his country for signing the deal, Karzai has said he would prefer that his successor be the one to sign it.

“While we still continue to plan for a residual force to train, advise and assist the Afghan security forces and to conduct limited counterterrorism missions, the scale of this commitment may well wane as uncertainty over our welcome persists, and we will also need to plan for the alternative of full withdrawal,” Dobbins said.

Dobbins spent most of his speech citing scores of examples

of progress that has been made in Afghanistan related to health, education, the upcoming presidential election, business and development and the building of institutions. But he said those advances remain fragile.

He also cited a recent study, ordered by Congress, which said international trainers and advisers will be needed in Afghanistan at least through 2018. The study was conducted by CNA Strategic Studies, a federally funded research group.

“In the absence of a continued train, advise and assist U.S. and NATO military mission, Afghanistan’s descent into more widespread violence and political disintegration is likely to be more rapid,” Dobbins said.

Weighing the debate over a ‘zero option’

By Robert Burns

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — If President Barack Obama were to decide to leave no military advisory force in Afghanistan next year, would Afghan security unravel to the point of enabling a civil war, a Taliban takeover and a return of al-Qaida in such numbers as to pose a 9/11-type threat?

That is the question at the core of the debate over Obama’s next move in a long-running standoff with the Afghans over a postwar presence.

A look at the debate and the arguments behind it.

Hasn’t Obama said the war will end this year?

Yes, but that tells only part of the story of the endgame for America’s longest war. Obama refers to ending the U.S. and coalition combat role in Afghanistan on Dec. 31, as was agreed four years ago. Aside from the fact that for Afghans, the war and its misery almost certainly will not end this year, the remaining issue for Obama is whether to begin a follow-on military advisory mission in January that also would allow U.S. special operations forces to continue hunting the small remaining numbers of al-Qaida in eastern Afghanistan.

What good would advisers do, if 13 years of combat couldn’t win the war?

The thinking is that with a little more help, U.S.-trained Afghan government troops can at least hold their own against the Taliban over the next few years, creating a better chance for a long-term political settlement. It has been clear for some time that U.S. and coalition forces can damage but not decisively defeat the Taliban, and that the best hope for peace and stability is to force the Afghans to do the heavy lifting.

A study by CNA Strategic Studies, a federally funded think tank, published earlier this month concluded that the Taliban is likely to regroup and gain strength after 2014, posing a threat to the government in the 2015-18 period, even if U.S. and other international advisers remain. But the picture could grow much worse, the study said, if foreign forces abandon the country entirely. It predicted a “downward spiral” of Afghan security force capabilities, and of Afghan security, unless U.S. and other advisers remain and the international community continues to un-



U.S. troops listen to Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel speak at Camp Bastion, Afghanistan, on Dec. 8.

derrwrite the cost of Afghan’s army.

So what’s the argument against keeping advisers there?

The practical problem is that Afghan President Hamid Karzai has so far refused to sign a deal he negotiated with Washington last year that provides the legal basis for U.S. forces to remain there after 2014. No deal, no troops, the White House says. There also are political factors. A war-weary American public appears to have little appetite for even a slimmed-down commitment to remaining involved in the inconclusive war.

Is Obama likely to abandon the idea of providing a follow-on advisory force?

He is keeping his options open, but many who have closely followed the war believe Obama will keep pressing the Afghans to approve a U.S.-NATO advisory mission. Less than a year after he took office, Obama took ownership of the war by ordering an extra 30,000 troops into battle, saying America’s security depends on a stable Afghanistan.

Michael O’Hanlon, of the Brookings Institution think tank, said in an email inter-

view Thursday that by choosing the “zero option,” as it has come to be called, Obama would be “perilously close to conceding — or at least risking — defeat” in Afghanistan. He does not believe Obama is leaning toward that option.

How is it possible that, after 13 years of war, the Afghan forces are not ready to stand on their own?

It depends on how you look at it. U.S. officials say they believe the Afghan army has shown it can stand up to the Taliban. Afghan forces have taken the lead combat role for many months now. But they have enjoyed the luxury of knowing that American troops have their backs. The problem is not the Afghans’ will or ability to fight. The problem, from a purely military standpoint, is the government’s limited ability to sustain them in that fight. In other words, the Afghans need help running their own defense establishment to keep weapons and supplies — and paychecks — flowing to the troops, and to develop effective air forces.

Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel said Thursday in Brussels that without U.S. and coalition backup, there is a risk of an “ero-

sion of confidence” among Afghan troops. Some say that could lead to their collapse. The U.S.’s top military officer, Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Gen. Martin Dempsey, said after meeting with ground commanders in Afghanistan on Wednesday that he feared a Western departure would embolden the Taliban and even cause some Afghan troops to cooperate with the Taliban to “hedge their bets.”

When will Obama have to decide whether to pull all U.S. troops out?

There is no hard deadline. Administration officials had said late last year that they needed a decision by Karzai in a matter of weeks. By it now appears that Obama could afford to wait even beyond this summer. By July, the top U.S. commander in Kabul, Gen. Joseph Dunford, expects to have established a force tailored for a post-2014 mission, although the military has said it would like to know by early summer, in part because some NATO allies who want to be part of that post-2014 force need time to make their own arrangements. It appears Dunford might be able to wait as late as October for a decision on whether to fully withdraw.

MILITARY

Base in Romania ready to operate at full capacity

By MATT MILLHAM
Stars and Stripes

MK AIR BASE, Romania — A temporary U.S. base in Romania that will serve as the primary hub for American forces leaving Afghanistan officially reached its full operating capacity Friday.

Since Feb. 2, about 6,000 American servicemembers have transited through the center at Mihail Kogalniceanu Air Base, about 25 miles northwest of the Black Sea city of Constanta and about 2,500 miles northwest of Afghanistan.

"It's an ideal location for us as far as capability," Maj. Gen. John O'Connor, commander of the 21st Theater Sustainment Command said in a recent interview with Stars and Stripes.

The U.S. had already constructed 85 buildings capable of supporting roughly 1,500 personnel at Mihail Kogalniceanu — or MK Air Base — for previous missions, O'Connor said.

Beginning in late December, elements of the 21st expanded the infrastructure to accommodate up to 2,000 transiting troops and 400 military personnel who run the operation.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony Friday in a processing tent built in a parking lot next to the airstrip signaled that the base is ready to

handle the full flow of troops in and out of Afghanistan.

The center replaces the transit center at Manas, Kyrgyzstan, which had processed hundreds of thousands of troops moving to and from the war beginning in the weeks after Sept. 11, 2001.

The Kyrgyz government last year declined to extend its lease on Manas, forcing the U.S. to find another location to stage its forces.

After previous threats by the Kyrgyz government to close the Manas operation, the U.S. started testing the possibility of shifting transit operations to Romania, O'Connor said. About 20,000 U.S. troops from the United States and Germany transited through MK Air Base on their way to Afghanistan in the two years prior to the transit center's opening in early February, he said. Those troop movements helped military planners decide how much additional infrastructure the Army needed to install at the base to handle the full flow of troops to and from Afghanistan.

The first flight of roughly 300 soldiers in the newly expanded MK transit center arrived Feb. 2. On Friday, about 1,800 in-transit troops were bedded down in a living area a short drive from the processing center. Reporters



MATT MILLHAM/Stars and Stripes

Benches in the processing tent at the new U.S. transit center at Mihail Kogalniceanu Air Base in Romania can accommodate roughly 300 personnel at a time. The new center will process up to 2,000 personnel a day heading to and from the war in Afghanistan.

who attended the ribbon-cutting ceremony didn't see this portion of the base.

"It's been really busy," said Pfc. Bryan Orlando, a human resources specialist from Waterford, Calif., who helps process transiting personnel. "We've been getting a lot of flights."

O'Connor said four C-17 transport planes and up to four commercial wide-body aircraft will ferry troops in and out of the center daily — about half going to Afghanistan, half home.

But for nearly three weeks after reaching its initial operating capacity in early February, only troops heading to the war transited through here. For about the last week, the flow has been going both ways.

"So we're definitely seeing the op-tempo pick up," Sgt. Bart

Khan, a human resources specialist deployed here from Joint Base Lewis-McChord in Washington, said.

Construction of the additional tents and buildings to house and feed 2,000 transiting personnel, and contracts for cooks, trash and other base operations cost roughly \$11 million, O'Connor said. The cost of running the base for the 10 months between now and the withdrawal of all combat troops from Afghanistan is estimated at between \$18 million to \$20 million, he said.

If the U.S. had had to build the entire base from scratch, O'Connor said, the cost likely would have exceeded \$100 million.

The transit center's primary purpose right now is to facilitate movement of personnel. But

it is also on standby to handle equipment if other transportation routes, such as those from Afghanistan through Pakistan, are shut down or overwhelmed, O'Connor said.

The 400 personnel running the operation at MK are roughly a third as many as were running the base at Manas, O'Connor said. However, Manas had other missions besides troop transport; it also hosted a fleet of refueling planes used to gas up military aircraft flying over Afghanistan, but that mission is also over.

The last KC-135 tanker landed at Manas on Feb. 24, after refueling A-10 Thunderbolt IIs and F-16 Fighting Falcons flying sorties over Afghanistan, according to the Air Force.

millham.matthew@stripes.com
Twitter: @matmillham

Chaplain's assistant finds challenges, rewards on the job

By LAUREN SAGE REINLIE

Northwest Florida Daily News,
Fort Walton Beach

For Army Staff Sgt. David George, Afghanistan has its good days and its bad ones.

There are days when the chaplain's assistant from Fort Walton Beach feels like he is making a difference, helping people. And then there are those when he wants to slam his head against the wall.

"It's really difficult — for all of us — to be 6,000 miles away from our families, our homes and everything we've left back there," the 43-year-old said recently on the phone from New Kabul Compound in Afghanistan. "We don't have any tangible control over what's going on back home. We have to trust in our spouse and our kids and that can be really difficult here."

"If we can help servicemembers deal with that in whatever way they need to and get back on focus and back on mission, that's very fulfilling."

Although it's rewarding when he can help, other days are more

challenging.

Servicemembers die, and grief comes, although there's hardly any time for it. George and his chaplain try to travel as often as they are needed to offer counsel, but arrangements can be difficult and movement slow in the war-torn country.



George

They often miss flights or are stranded.

George's job is to protect the chaplain, a noncombatant who cannot carry a weapon.

Armed always with his pistol and often with his assault rifle, George accompanies him wherever he goes.

Sometimes they have found themselves in sticky situations.

"Not so much where we are here at our base, but when we travel, a few times we would get into bunkers because stuff was going on," he said. "It has crossed

my mind once in awhile 'What am I doing here? Why did I decide to do this?'"

The decision that led him to Afghanistan started in 2007. A former member of the Army National Guard, George missed the service. With the wars dragging on and the country in need of more soldiers, he started looking into it and found a vast shortage of chaplain's assistants.

"We are a church-going family," he said. "We've been on mission trips before both in the U.S. and overseas and I thought this would be a good way to continue that but in a military setting — not exactly the same but along the same lines in that I am helping people. Or at least I feel like I'm helping people."

New Kabul Compound, where he and his chaplain are stationed, is about the size of the Choctawhatchee High School football stadium and its parking lot, George said. Since he arrived in August, the two have traveled to eight different bases across the country.

During September, they worked

at the International Security Assistance Force headquarters helping to conduct NATO memorial services for servicemembers killed in combat.

The terse but moving services lasted only about 10 to 15 minutes, but brought together servicemembers from dozens of countries.

They have held numerous suicide awareness trainings to try to stem the tide of soldiers taking their own lives. He hopes educating people on the signs of suicide risk and talking about it will make it easier for someone to get

help. George has his own difficulties dealing with the challenges of being away from home. He misses his wife and his six kids who range from 10 to 18 years old.

"The family is supportive. 'They know that this is what I'm supposed to be doing and they appreciate it,' he said. 'Hopefully we're over here so our kids don't ever have to be.'"

There's no question he is looking forward to coming home. "We're still two or three months away and I'm already planning it out," George said. "So yeah, you could say I'm ready."

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MILITARY

Survey to ask women about service on subs

By GORDON JACKSON
The Brunswick News

ST. MARYS, Ga. — Enlisted women could begin serving aboard submarines as early as 2016, depending on the interest female sailors have in serving on the boats.

Every enlisted woman in the Navy will be asked to participate in an anonymous survey this summer to determine how many would volunteer to serve aboard the vessels.

"The ability to attract, recruit and retain quality female sailors is essential to the success of integration. It will also be a big challenge," Lt. Timothy Hawkins, a Navy public affairs officer, said in a statement.

Former national Navy League president Sheila McNeill, who now serves as president of Camden Partnership, said she isn't surprised at the announcement because of how well female officers have performed aboard submarines since the Navy lifted the ban in 2010.

"It certainly has been a success so far," McNeill said. "There haven't been any issues."

Retired Navy Master Chief Royal Weaver, of St. Marys, Ga., said the integration of enlisted men and women as sailors will be done most easily on Ohio-class submarines, such as those ported at Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay, because they are the largest submarines in the Navy.

Kings Bay has eight Ohio-class submarines and a base at Bangor, Wash., has 10 of the boats. The boats are 570 feet long, with a crew of about 150.

Women are also expected to serve on the 55 fast-attack submarines, which are half the size of the Ohio-class and have nearly the same number of sailors.

To make it work on Ohio-class boats, Weaver says it is likely the sailors' lounge, where they watch movies and play games, would be converted into a women's bathroom and shower. Cubicles nearby could be designated as women's quarters.

Sailors aboard the submarines will have to do what they do on

'The ability to attract, recruit and retain quality female sailors is essential to the success of integration.'

Lt. Timothy Hawkins
Navy public affairs officer

smaller fast-attack submarines, which is use the mess deck as a sailors' lounge when meals are not being served.

"It provides one less area where they do training or watch movies," Weaver said.

Once the survey results come

in, a task force will determine specifics about integrating women into the crews. They are expected to make a decision by early 2015.

McNeill said she believes it's important to allow women to serve aboard submarines because it gives the Navy the ability to allow the most talented, intelligent women to serve aboard the vessels if they choose.

"I think the Navy has enough sense to take it easy," McNeill said of allowing women to serve aboard the boats. "I have a feeling they are going to work it out."



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Ex-Army officer gets 20 years in child-sex cases

COLORADOSPRINGS, Colo. — A former Army officer who once blamed his twin brother for a string of sexual assaults on young girls has been sentenced to 20 years to life in prison.






The Colorado Springs Gazette reported Aaron Lucas was sentenced Friday.

Lucas had been assigned to Fort Carson outside Colorado Springs. He said last year his twin was responsible for the attacks, but in November he changed his mind and pleaded guilty.

Authorities said the twin denied involvement.

Investigators said DNA linked Aaron Lucas to the abduction of an 8-year-old girl in Colorado Springs and to cases in Alabama and Texas.

The Associated Press

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MILITARY

Will the budget sting the Super Hornet?

By W.J. HENNIGAN
Los Angeles Times

Workers at Northrop Grumman Corp.'s 1-million-square-foot facility in El Segundo, Calif., have been cranking out fuselage sections for the Navy's F/A-18 fighter jet for decades.

But now, the end may be near. Since entering service in 1983, the lithe twin-engine fighter-bomber has been a symbol of U.S. military might, catapulting from aircraft carrier decks and obliterating targets in the sky and on the ground.

Today there are increasing fears that the F/A-18 Super Hornet assembly line may be shut down because of dwindling orders, as the Navy prepares for a new generation of warplane — the controversial F-35 Joint Strike Fighter.

The new radar-evading jet is scheduled to be the F/A-18's eventual successor when it becomes operational in 2019. It's only about halfway through its development plan and has been plagued by billions of dollars' worth of cost overruns. There have also been a string of technical problems, including a redesign of its arresting hook, which is essential to landing on a carrier deck.

Now the Obama administration must decide by Tuesday — when its fiscal 2015 budget request is sent to Congress — whether it wants any more F/A-18s. Then it will be up to Congress whether to go along.

With no new orders, the last F/A-18 fuselage is set to be hoisted onto an 18-wheeler for the 1,800-mile trek from El Segundo to prime contractor Boeing Co.'s final assembly plant in St. Louis by the end of 2016.

John Murnane, Northrop's program manager, said there are nearly 100 fuselages left to deliver to Boeing, and contractors are hopeful for more.

"We continue to work with our industry partners to identify future opportunities," he said. "The program has always received strong support from its customers."

To give customers more time and to extend the line's life several months, Boeing and Northrop have slowed production rates from four per month to three. The aerospace giants have also proposed a more fuel-efficient, stealthy version of the plane as a potential alternative. To lower costs, Boeing negotiated a new contract with a St. Louis machinist union.

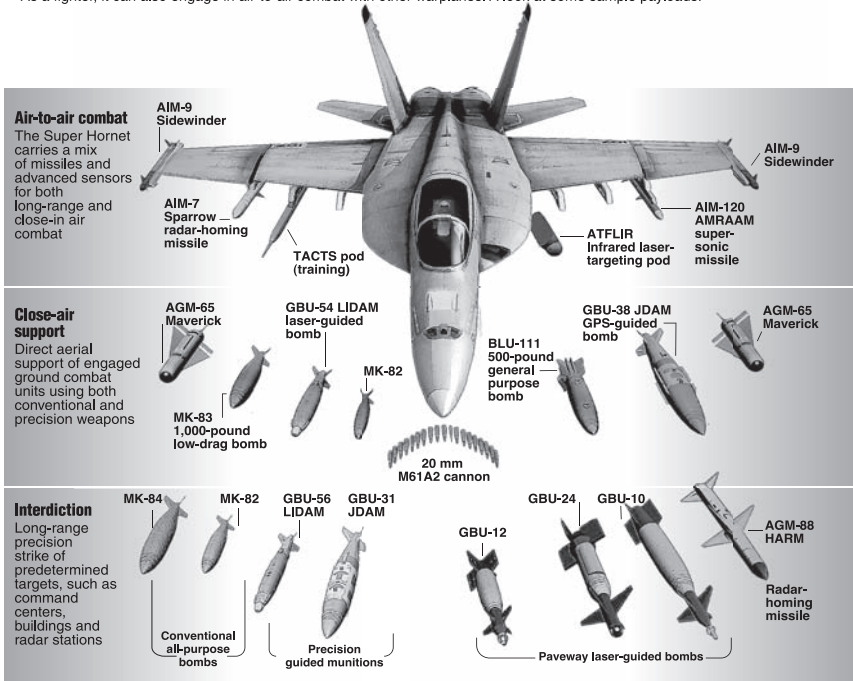
If political maneuvering and a fresh sales pitch don't work, the El Segundo assembly line could join dozens of other airplane manufacturing plants that have had no new orders. The latest is Boeing's sprawling Long Beach, Calif., plant, where the last hulking C-17 cargo plane is to be built next year.

The difference here is that the Navy is more likely to purchase more fighters no matter what, whereas the Air Force was not interested in more cargo jets, said Todd Harrison, a defense analyst for the Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments in Washington, D.C.

"It's a zero-sum game for the Navy," he said. "It's only a matter

A Hornet's sting

The F/A-18 Super Hornet is a carrier-based aircraft that can carry every aerial weapon in the U.S. Navy's arsenal. The Boeing-built fighter-bomber uses its external weaponry to attack targets on the ground in air support missions, day or night. As a fighter, it can also engage in air-to-air combat with other warplanes. A look at some sample payloads:



NOTE: All of the above missions employ the radar, the Infrared Laser Targeting Pod and the pilot's helmet-mounted targeting system for weapons targeting
SOURCE: McDonnell Douglas F/A-18 Hornet program GRAPHIC: Javier Zarzaca, Los Angeles Times

MCT

[of] if they're going to buy F-35s or Super Hornets."

Boeing and Northrop have had luck staving off the end before. By now, the military had hoped to start phasing out the F/A-18 and buying the F-35, but repeated problems have forced the Navy to buy more F/A-18s to hedge against the delays.

That's been a boon for Northrop's 900 F/A-18 workers in El Segundo. Aerospace workers have been assembling military aircraft at the Woodward Building on Aviation Boulevard, which is only about a mile south of Los Angeles International Airport, since World War II.

In the 1940s, Douglas Aircraft Co. made the SBD Dauntless, a Navy dive bomber, in the facility. Northrop moved into the facility in 1977 to build the F/A-18 and another supersonic fighter, the F-5.

It now produces about 3.5 of the F/A-18 fuselage sections per month.

Each section is about 28 feet long and 12 feet tall and runs the length of the center and rear of the fuselage.

The jet's twin vertical tails and the electronics and pump systems are also installed at the plant.

About 210 parts suppliers are spread throughout California on the program alone, and the plane has its final assembly at the Hill, it supports about 90,000 supplier jobs in 44 states.

Rep. J. Randy Forbes, R-Va., wrote a letter to Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel in December expressing concern that if the F/A-18 line begins to close down, there will be too great a reliance on the troubled F-35 program.

"Should the Navy choose to allow the F/A-18 production line to close, the U.S. will be left with only one manufacturing line capable of producing combat-ready tactical aircraft until later this decade," he said. "The risk to U.S. national security and the health of our aviation industrial base of relying on only one tactical aircraft supply line is simply too great to allow the line to close."

In January, Congress passed an omnibus federal spending bill that

included \$75 million for 22 planes that the Navy didn't even request.

Winslow T. Wheeler, a military budget specialist and frequent Pentagon critic at the Project for Government Oversight, says the Navy is not speaking up about the concerns over the F-35.

"The Navy should show some real leadership on its own, rather than squirming over to Capitol Hill, to get some relief from the F-35 and its unaffordable costs and unacceptable performance," he said.

Depending on the variation of F/A-18, costs can range from about \$52 million to \$61 million. So the planes are relatively cheap when compared with newer fighter jets such as the F-35, which costs about \$130 million.

That's not a revelation. As more planes are built on the assembly line, the cost per plane falls. Only about two dozen Navy versions of the F-35 have been built.

The F/A-18 first proved its worth in the 1990s in Operation Desert Storm when it shot down Iraqi air

force fighters in dogfights and took out key enemy strongholds with laser-guided bombs — sometimes on the same mission.

Boeing and Northrop have delivered more than 2,100 of the F/A-18s — and all of its variations such as the Hornet, Super Hornet and Growler, the electronic warplane.

"This is the best product at the best price," said Mike Gibbons, Boeing's F/A-18 program manager. "The aircraft we deliver today have more capabilities than what we did years ago, and it's more affordable."

Critics of the jet often say that it's not stealthy enough. But Boeing has made several changes to the design on its newest proposed version, the Advanced Super Hornet. Boeing says it has reduced its radar visibility of the plane by 50 percent, so it doesn't pop up as readily on enemy radar screens.

"This has been a model program in how it faced problems and overcame them," Gibbons said. "We expect to build this aircraft into 2016 and beyond."

MILITARY

SOCOM head: Goals on track despite cuts

By HOWARD ALTMAN
Tampa (Fla.) Tribune

As the man responsible for synchronizing the global war on terrorism, Adm. William McRaven, commander of U.S. Special Operations Command, laid out for Congress his vision for the future of a force that continues to fray, but will be increasingly called upon around the globe.

"The greatest threat to the homeland is al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula," said McRaven, referring to the jihadi "franchise" group active in Yemen during his remarks to the House Armed Services Committee. McRaven flew from his MacDill Air Force Base headquarters in Tampa, Fla., to present SOCOM's annual "posture statement" — a report on the command's present operations and future goals and needs — to the House Armed Services Committee.

As "core al-Qaida has been degraded significantly" after 13 years of war, McRaven told the committee that the jihadi group and its ideology has "metastasized" worldwide.

To counter that, commanders will remain at the tip of the spear, said McRaven. The budget plans unveiled Monday by Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel, while cutting the overall level of military spending, will enable the command to continue its mission, McRaven said.

But even as he plans for the long-term future, McRaven still has to deal with the present, where his top objective is Afghanistan. He said the command, which is expected to take up a good deal of any missions there after the scheduled conclusion of combat operations at the end of the year, is planning for several options.

The White House is threatening to pull all of the remaining 33,600 troops out by Dec. 31 over frustration with Afghan President Hamid Karzai's refusal to sign a bilateral security agreement giving legal protections to U.S. forces.

"We have good options," said McRaven when asked how global counterterrorism efforts would be affected if there are no more commandos in Afghanistan. "But if we go to zero, it will make things difficult, no question about that."

McRaven's comments in Washington came on the same day his



Jesse LaMorte/Courtesy of the U.S. Army

Soldiers with Special Operations Task Force-South prepare to load an all-terrain vehicle onto a CH-47 Chinook helicopter during operations in 2010 in Kandahar Province, Afghanistan.

Tampa headquarters was breaking ground on a new, \$34.5 million campus for the Joint Special Operations University, a \$12 million-per-year learning center that helps provide commanders "with the most educated [special operations forces] operators to support their objectives," McRaven stated in his posture statement.

Approved by Congress before the latest budget, the 90,000-square-foot building, expected to be completed next fall, further highlights the Pentagon's commitment to special operations.

Force 'continues to fray'

In his posture statement, the third of his tenure, McRaven said that Socom's budget, about \$10 billion last year, was "not expected to reach levels projected in the five-year budget plan submitted by the President last year."

On Monday, Hagel said that the number of commandos would increase from about 66,000 to 69,700. Those numbers reflect Congressional and Pentagon "intent to rebalance the Nation's defense," McRaven wrote in his posture statement, "despite current fiscal austerity and drawdown."

During the two-hour committee meeting Thursday morning, McRaven repeated his call for working with other nations to

build their ability to defend themselves, pointing to the successes in Colombia and the Philippines.

He said that despite reduced military spending, his Vision 2020 plan, hammered out before the latest budget and calling for a globally networked force of commandos, representatives from agencies like the CIA, the NSA, the FBI and the DEA, allies and partners, is on track.

"I see it moving forward," he said of the plan, which relies on host nations to signal their needs to the State Department.

McRaven said that after more than 12 years of constant deployment, the force "continues to fray."

Since becoming SOCOM's ninth commander in August 2011, one of McRaven's top priorities has been an effort called Preservation of the Force and Family, designed to take care of the mental, physical and spiritual needs of troops and their families before, during and after deployment.

Calling for constant, embedded presence of behavioral health staff, McRaven in his posture statement said that "we need these specialists more than ever because suicides continue to be a challenge. While the Department [of Defense] saw a marked decline in suicides this past year, the SOF community's rate remained tragically steady."

SOCOM, as with all large military headquarters, has been forced to reduce its staff after Hagel called for 20 percent cuts in those budgets last year. That would represent about 500 jobs leaving MacDill.

McRaven told the committee that he had already instituted a 20 percent staff cut at MacDill and is reviewing the latest guidelines. "I'm perfectly OK with that," he said. "Over the course of the last 10 years, we grew the staff to address problems dealing with Iraq and Afghanistan. We figured out how to do business better and some of the cuts make sense to me."

In addition to those cuts, McRaven told the committee he also had transferred personnel from his MacDill headquarters to the seven Theater Special Operations Commands, which are responsible for carrying out commando operations on behalf of geographic combatant commanders like Army Gen. Lloyd Austin III, who runs MacDill-headquartered U.S. Central Command, overseeing U.S. military operations in most of the Middle East and Southwest Asia.

Special Operations Command Central, also headquartered at MacDill, is the largest of those, with a budget of about \$40 million to \$45 million, McRaven said.

Though SOCOM is not taking

the same kind of hit as the services — the Army, for instance, is going to be reduced from about 520,000 soldiers to about 450,000 — McRaven said those cuts will be felt by commandos.

SOCOM, he said, receives personnel from the services and, in battle zones, commandos rely heavily on general-purpose forces for supplies, transportation and force protection, among other requirements.

Overall defense cuts, he said, will "affect special operations globally," he said.

And, as important as special operations forces are, McRaven warned that commandos should not be considered "a panacea."

"Special Operations can't stop North Koreans from coming south," he said. "They can't keep the Strait of Hormuz open."

Helping local forces

"On any given day, our [special operations forces] are deployed in over 75 countries," McRaven said in his 13-page posture statement.

Aside from laying out future threats from northern Africa to the Levant, where "the flow of foreign fighters into Syria is unprecedented, even compared to what we saw in Iraq," the document spells out McRaven's goals.

"Augmenting the capability of local forces equates to perhaps the most cost-effective way of deterring adversaries worldwide and protecting American citizens abroad," he stated. Special operations forces are "uniquely suited for operations that win population-centric conflicts, oftentimes, and preferably, before they start."

To meet his goals, McRaven said he will take advantage of the drawdown in Afghanistan by redistributing forces to other regions and making sure that troops cycling back to the U.S. are given training that will make them "true experts in terrain, languages, and cultures in their respective areas of responsibility."

He also called for increased coordination with the interagencies.

"One of our most significant partners is the National Security Agency," wrote McRaven of the organization under fire for its sweeping data collection. "We could not perform our counterterrorism mission without the NSA — period!"

Air Force secretary reviewing Sikorsky bid for \$6.8B helicopter deal

By TONY CAPACCI
Bloomberg News

WASHINGTON — U.S. Air Force Secretary Debra James says she's reviewing whether the service can afford a contract for combat-rescue helicopters that drew only one bid, raising questions about whether a unit of United Technologies Corp. will receive a multibillion-dollar

award this year.

The Air Force said in November that United Technologies' Sikorsky aircraft unit was the sole contractor that responded to a request for proposals for as many as 112 helicopters with a potential value of \$6.8 billion. The service said it was "laying the groundwork to award" the contract by March 30.

Lockheed Martin Corp. has teamed with Sikorsky on the proposed helicopter, the CRH-60.

"Given the funding constraints that we're under, I personally am doing a lot of due diligence now to try and figure out if we can award it and when we can award it," James said Wednesday in an interview after she spoke at Bloomberg Government's De-

fense Transformation conference in Washington.

"There are a variety of options on the table," said James, who was confirmed as Air Force secretary in December.

The helicopter is intended to rescue pilots downed during missions and to perform civil search and rescue, humanitarian missions, disaster relief and casualty

evacuation. It's intended to replace the Air Force's HH-60 Pave Hawk, also made by Sikorsky, which entered service in 1982.

Sikorsky Aircraft spokesman Frans Jurgens said in an emailed statement that an award this year "will deliver the most affordable solution" that can be fielded by 2020 and that other options "will further delay a critically important requirement."

NATION

Wrong-airport landings are lessons for airline pilots in what not to do

BY MOLLY McMILLIN
The Wichita Eagle

Two highly publicized airliner landings at wrong airports created a lot of discussion among pilots, flight departments, flight instructors and even some passengers.

Some instructors say they are using the incidents as case studies or reiterating in training how to avoid those kinds of situations.

In November, Boeing's massive Dreamlifter, a highly modified 747, landed at the smaller Jabara Airport in Wichita, Kan., rather than at McConnell Air Force Base as it delivered fuselage sections to Boeing. Atlas Air operates Dreamlifter flights.

In January, pilots of a Southwest Airlines flight landed at the smaller airport in Hollister, Mo., instead of the Branson, Mo., airport six miles away. Passengers then were bused to the correct airport.

"These two airlines and hopefully other organizations are saying (that) if it happened to them, it can happen to anyone," said Dan Boedigheimer, director of instructional design at Advanced Aircrew Academy in South Carolina. Boedigheimer provides training to business jet pilots and comes to Wichita to speak about human factors and other issues at Bombardier's annual Safety Standdown. "Most organizations learn from their mistakes."

Business jet pilots say passengers are making subtle jokes about the incidents or are asking direct questions about whether it could happen to them, he said.

"The questions come up," Boedigheimer said, especially because passengers in business jets have close interaction with the pilots, unlike commercial airline passengers.

The pilots are reassuring passengers that the best operating techniques are in place, Boedigheimer said.

Advanced Aircrew Academy provides online pilot training that addresses regulations, automation, crew resource management and hazardous materials, Boedigheimer said.

Wrong-airport landings are a special emphasis item in the company's training, he said.

He's had requests asking that the Dreamlifter and Southwest

Airlines incidents be included as case studies in training materials and put in a prominent place.

In each of the incidents, the orientation of the wrong runways lined up similarly to the correct ones, and the pilots flew visual approaches into the airports.

The frequency of cases in which pilots land at the wrong airports doesn't appear to be increasing, although no one really tracks them, experts say.

For the companies, "It's more of an embarrassment than anything," Boedigheimer said. No one was hurt in either errant landing.

Typically, lining up to land at the wrong airport is done in good weather conditions and more often at night.

When pilots stop using the information in the cockpit and begin relying on their eyesight, their minds can play tricks, Boedigheimer said.

"We call that 'confirmation bias,'" or the tendency of people to favor information that confirms their beliefs or hypotheses. They tend to filter out potentially useful information that doesn't conform with preconceived notions.

"It's a mental bias that we all have when things look similar," Boedigheimer said. "During stressful situations or high workload situations or even fatigue is when these mental biases come up."

It's the kind of situation in which technology can be especially useful.

"We have so much automation in the cockpit that can help us out, that can show us precisely within a couple of meters where the aircraft is," he said. "Using that information, it becomes obvious you're not in the right spot."

But pilots must pay attention. Most organizations have policies requiring pilots to use automation to back up what they are seeing out the window, he said.

"It's an industry's best practice to have that policy," Boedigheimer said.

In incidents such as these, he said, the pilots aren't following the policy or there isn't one, he said.

Unless the frequency increases or there are injuries, Boedigheimer doubts the Federal Aviation Administration will create more regulations to address the issue.



DANNY JOHNSTON/AP

Visitors walk from the Clinton Presidential Library on Friday in Little Rock, Ark.

Advisers aimed to soften Hillary Clinton's image

BY KEN THOMAS
AND PHILIP ELLIOTT
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Hillary Rodham Clinton's advisers sought to "humanize" what they saw as her stern, defensive public image during her husband's White House days and as she embarked on her groundbreaking Senate campaign in New York.

"Be real," wrote adviser Mandy Grunwald in a July 1999 memo as Clinton prepared for a Senate campaign. In the memo, the adviser urged the first lady to "look for opportunities for humor. It's important that people see more sides of you, and they often see you only in very stern situations."

Thousands of pages of documents released Friday by the Clinton Presidential Library reveal the first lady's struggles with the health care plan during the 1990s, "an aversion" to the Washington press corps and her transition into a political candidate in her own right as the Clinton administration ended.

Clinton is the leading Democratic contender to succeed Pres-

ident Barack Obama, though she has not said whether she will run. The nearly 4,000 pages of records, the first of more than 25,000 expected to be released in the next two weeks,

underscore her attempts to appeal to average Americans and her aides' advice that she show a more human side, reminiscent of problems that surfaced in her 2008 primary loss against Obama.

Clinton's public image has been a hotly debated topic throughout her career and could linger into any presidential campaign in 2016. She generated headlines during her husband's 1992 campaign when she defended her work as an attorney instead of being someone who "could have stayed home and baked cookies." Her role in the health care reform effort was criticized as Democratic efforts were routed in the 1994

elections. Establishing herself in the Senate, Clinton lost to Obama in the 2008 Democratic primary but has become one of the most admired women in the world, watching her popularity grow as Obama's secretary of state.

The documents provide more details about the concerns in her own camp about how she was perceived by the public.

As the first lady began her bid for the Senate seat, Grunwald coached her to keep her tone conversational and "don't be defensive" when handling "annoying questions" from the media. Grunwald said Clinton was sure to be asked about her husband's Senate impeachment trial earlier that year and encouraged her to acknowledge "that of course last year was rough."

At the White House, Clinton's press secretary, Lisa Caputo, encouraged the first couple to capitalize on their 20th wedding anniversary as "a wonderful opportunity for Hillary" and also suggested she spend more time doing White House events celebrating first ladies of the past.



Clinton

4K records of federal workers lost at national personnel facility

BY ROBERT PATRICK
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

ST. LOUIS COUNTY — National Personnel Records Center workers here dumped, stashed or otherwise destroyed 4,000 records of individual federal employees, the head of the National Archives revealed in a memo this week.

The magnitude of the loss — more than twice what was pre-

viously disclosed — is described in an internal memo obtained Thursday by the Post-Dispatch.

In it, Archivist of the United States David S. Ferriero summarized a recent investigation by the agency's Office of Inspector General and the FBI, saying he was "outraged" to learn records "had been treated with such disregard."

It appears that some workers took easy shortcuts rather than

investing the time to file documents properly.

And another agency document suggests the problem may not be new.

A July 30, 2012, letter from the Office of Inspector General said that as the old records center facility in Overland was being decommissioned in 2011, employees found documents hidden in pillars and stuffed into the space between the floors and the lowest shelves.

Roughly 4,000 documents were found at that time, including military discharge paperwork, medical documents, Distinguished Service Medal orders and other files, it said.

It was not clear Thursday how much overlap might exist between the 4,000 documents cited in the 2012 letter and the 4,000 referred to in Ferriero's memo.

No one from the center or the National Archives has responded

to questions about the full extent of the record loss since the Post-Dispatch first reported in late January that more than 1,800 records had been affected.

The records were not entire files, but individual documents that were supposed to be filed in "existing service folders that had been retired ... years ago," Ferriero wrote. Many were computer-generated notifications of the deaths of long-retired veterans.

NATION

No dent in drought after Calif. soaking

By JUSTIN PRITCHARD
AND ROBERT JABLON

The Associated Press

AZUSA, Calif. — Southern California has so far been spared major damage from a powerful Pacific storm, but forecasters warn that intense rain will occur even as it begins to move east.

A burst of heavy showers before dawn Saturday impacted wildfire-scarred mountainsides above foothill suburbs east of Los Angeles, causing another round of mud and debris flows in the city of Glendora.

The National Weather Service says the center of the system located off the coast will move across Southern California to exit the region, but bands of intense rain will still occur.

The system has been so volatile that the weather service issued a 3:30 a.m. tornado warning for east-central Los Angeles County when radar showed the rotation signature of a tornado and severe thunderstorms.

The storm, which brought some of the highest rainfall totals to the Los Angeles area, including eight inches on some mountains, was just the beginning of what the region needs to pull out of a major drought.

"We need several large storms and we just don't see that on the horizon," National Weather Service meteorologist Eric Boldt said Friday. "This is a rogue storm. We will dry out next week."

But the storm had yet to do se-

rious damage either. At least not yet.

In Azusa and neighboring foothill communities about 25 miles east of Los Angeles that sit beneath nearly 2,000 acres of steep mountain slopes that just weeks ago were menaced by a wildfire, about 1,200 homes were under evacuation orders over mudflow fears but were so far spared.

In particular danger were about a dozen homes in Azusa that were backed up against a steep fire-denuded hillside several hundred feet high that authorities feared could collapse.

Muddy water swept down the hillside earlier in the day, spreading about two feet of ooze above one backyard, although fencing walls and an orchard of about 5,000 avocado trees behind the development stopped most serious debris.

Rainfall totals in parts of California were impressive, especially in areas that typically don't receive much, but not nearly enough to offer long-term relief from a long-running drought.

Three inches fell on Bel Air and Pasadena, and an urban flash-flood warning that was sent to cellphones was called late Friday night for central Los Angeles County.

For the first time in nearly three years, downtown Los Angeles received more than 2 inches — doubling its total for the rainy season that began in July, the National Weather Service said. Yet the city remained 7 inches below



RINGO H.W. CHIU/AP

A man walks along the mud and debris Saturday on Highcrest Road in Glendora, Calif. Heavy showers before dawn Saturday above suburbs east of Los Angeles caused another round of mud and debris flows in the city of Glendora.

the normal 11 inches.

Meanwhile to the east in San Bernardino County, a levee failed and put eight houses in danger of serious flooding, but county fire crews were working to protect them and no evacuations were ordered.

Rain also fell along the central coast, the San Francisco Bay area and Central Valley.

Winter storm warnings were in effect in the Sierra Nevada. About 15 inches of new snow had fallen by mid-day Friday at the University of California, Berkeley's Central Sierra Snow Lab located at 6,900 feet elevation.

A tornado warning was issued for Sacramento, Yolo and Sutter Counties Friday night but was canceled soon after.

Officials urge calm over crack in dam

The Associated Press

EPHRATA, Wash. — A 65-foot-long crack in a Columbia River dam in central Washington has prompted officials to begin lowering the water level by 20 feet so inspectors can get a better idea of how serious the damage is.

There's no immediate threat to public safety from the crack in the Wanapum Dam, Grant County Public Utility District spokesman Thomas Stredwick said Friday. The dam is located just downstream from where Interstate 90 crosses the river.

"At this point we already know there's a serious problem," Stredwick said. "We want to make sure the spillway is stable enough that inspectors are safe when inspecting it."

An engineer early last week spotted a slight "bowing" above the spillway gates near where cars can drive across the dam, The Seattle Times reported. Divers found a 2-inch-wide crack along the base of one of the spillway piers.

Public utility district officials analyzed the damage and decided Friday that the failure risk was sufficiently high that they should notify other government agencies and downstream water users.

Officials have lowered the water level by 6 feet already and plan to let the level drop another 14 feet by Monday.

Dam failure in the rural area south of the small town of Vantage would primarily affect farmers, fishermen and power generation. The dam can generate more than 1,000 megawatts of hydroelectric power.

PUD officials are working with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to determine how best to repair the cracked pillar.

Repairs could also affect the rest of the Columbia River hydroelectric system.

"All these dams coordinate to generate energy on a regional scope," Stredwick said. "If Wanapum is impacted, that has impacts on dams upstream as well as below."

Officials with the Bonneville Power Administration, the federal utility that sells and transmits much of the Northwest's cheap and abundant hydroelectric power, declined to comment on any potential impact to power generation, The Times reported.

Wanapum Dam was built in 1959 and is more than a mile long.

The piers supporting its 10 spillway gates are each 65 feet wide, 126 feet tall and 92 feet deep.

Flaws found in Wash. nuke waste tanks

SPOKANE, Wash. — While one of the newer double-walled nuclear waste storage tanks at a Washington state complex has leaked, six others have "significant construction flaws" that could lead to additional leaks, according to documents obtained by The Associated Press.

The 28 double-walled tanks at Hanford nuclear waste complex hold some of the worst radioactive waste at the nation's most contaminated nuclear weapons site.

One of those giant tanks was found to be leaking in 2012. But subsequent surveys of the other double-walled tanks performed for the U.S. Department of Energy by one of its Hanford contractors found at least six shared defects with the leaking tank that could lead to future leaks, the documents said. Thirteen additional tanks also might be compromised, according to the documents.

Energy Department officials said the agency continues to make thorough inspections of the tanks, and has increased the frequency of those inspections.

Hanford contains some 53 million gallons of high-level radioactive wastes from the production of plutonium for nuclear weapons.

From The Associated Press



CHARLES REX ARBOGAST/AP

Kankakee freeze worries

Large ice jams encroach on waterfront property Friday along the Kankakee River in Wilmington, Ill. While the threat of flooding has eased in much of the Chicago area, there's still concern about the Kankakee River, because of ice jams in the water.

NATION

4 shot in Detroit after fight over tax refund

The Associated Press

DETROIT — A man involved in a dispute over a tax refund check opened fire at a Detroit tax preparation business on Friday afternoon, wounding four employees.

Police said the suspected gunman was arrested running from the scene and a woman involved in the dispute turned herself in later in the day.

The shooting happened at Tax City Tax Service on the city's east side.

Deputy Police Chief Rodney Johnson said the woman became upset when her tax refund wasn't ready Friday and started scuffling with the guard. Johnson

said the man with her pulled a gun and started shooting.

The security guard was wounded, as were three other employees.

One victim was in critical condition, while the other three were listed in serious condition.

"There were no fatalities, thank goodness," Johnson said.

Johnson said a passer-by flagged down a police officer and pointed out the suspect, who was arrested less than a block from the shooting.

Police had been looking for the woman, but Johnson said she walked into a police precinct and turned herself in Friday evening.



DAVID GOLDMAN/AP

A photo of retired Lt. Col. Ronald Westbrook, 72, who suffered from Alzheimer's Disease, sits on the coffee table in his home in Chickamauga, Ga., on Friday.

No charges in shooting of Alzheimer's patient

By RAY HENRY

The Associated Press

ATLANTA — A man who fatally shot a wandering Alzheimer's patient in the early-morning hours will not face criminal charges, a local prosecutor said Friday.

Joe Hendrix, 35, fatally shot Ronald Westbrook, 72, on Nov. 27. The elderly man had slipped from his home and wandered in the cold and dark for hours until randomly approaching the rural home of Hendrix's fiancée, repeatedly knocking on the door and ringing the bell.

Hendrix's fiancée called emergency services, while Hendrix grabbed his .40-caliber handgun, went outside and confronted the unknown man in the dark. Hendrix told police that he could see that man was carrying a cylindrical object, which turned out to be a flashlight. The unknown man ignored shouts to stop and came at Hendrix, he later told po-

lice. Hendrix fired three or four times, wounding Westbrook in the chest.

District Attorney Herbert Franklin said he could press charges only if investigators could prove that Hendrix was not acting in self-defense when he pulled the trigger.

Hendrix appreciated the care and deliberation shown by investigators, said his attorney, Lee Davis.

"Mr. Hendrix fully acknowledges the loss to Westbrook family, and his thoughts and prayers are with them," Davis said in a statement.

The outcome brought no solace to Westbrook's family.

"I'm a little upset," said Deanne Westbrook, the slain man's widow. "... I really wanted to see it go before a grand jury, and then maybe before a jury. But they tell me there's not enough evidence for that."



TOM BAUER, THE (MISSOULA, MONT.) MISSOULIAN/AP

Rescuers dig at the scene of an avalanche in Rattlesnake Valley in Missoula, Mont., on Friday.

3 rescued after avalanche destroys Montana house

The Associated Press

MISSOULA, Mont. — An avalanche roared into a residential neighborhood in the western Montana city of Missoula on Friday and destroyed a house, but three people were found alive amid the snow and wreckage, police said.

The survivors were an elderly couple and an 8-year-old boy, police Sgt. Travis Welsh said.

No one else had been reported missing.

All three were taken to a hospital. Their conditions weren't immediately known, but Welsh said the man was talking to rescuers.

"It's pretty incredible that we pulled three living bodies out of there," Welsh said.

Part of the house was upended and lying on its side, and the area

around it appeared to be strewn with debris. A utility pole tilted at a pronounced angle.

The elderly couple lived in the house that was destroyed. Police weren't sure whether the boy lived there or elsewhere.

The avalanche slid down Mount Jumbo into the northeast Missoula neighborhood at about 4 p.m.

Authorities said avalanche conditions around the city remained dangerous Friday night after a storm brought blizzard conditions to much of the region.

Police asked residents of vulnerable neighborhoods to consider leaving but did not require or recommend evacuations, Welsh said.

Neighbors and the first responders to reach the scene dug frantically through the snow and

debris, the Missoulian reported.

Firefighters with avalanche probes — long poles used to penetrate the snow to find victims — then took over, and the boy was pulled from the snow about 5:15 p.m.

The Missoulian reported the man was found about an hour later and his wife about an hour after that.

A natural gas leak also was reported in the area, and utility crews were summoned.

Cheryl McMillan, who lives near the house that was destroyed, told the Missoulian she heard a roar, but didn't know what it was at first.

"Then, when we looked again, we saw that their whole house was kind of no longer there, at least the top floor," she said.

Baby's tumor containing teeth removed

By ANDREA K. WALKER

The Baltimore Sun

BALTIMORE — Doctors at Johns Hopkins Hospital have removed a rare tumor that contained several fully grown teeth from a baby boy's brain.

The tumor was found in the then-4-month-old from West Virginia in 2012 after a pediatrician noticed that his head was unusually large for his age.

Doctors wrote about the findings in an article that appeared this week in the New England Journal of Medicine. The discovery could someday help researchers trying to cure diseases or grow new organs, medical ex-

perts said.

"It gives us more insight into the origins of the tumor," said Dr. Edward Ahn, a pediatric neurosurgeon at Johns Hopkins who was the lead surgeon in the case.

The tumor found in the child was a craniopharyngioma, a rare mass found mostly in young children that can press up against the pituitary gland and optic nerve and can cause pressure in the brain, according to the National Institutes of Health.

Only five other cases in medical literature found teeth in those types of tumors, Ahn said.

Teeth are more commonly found in another kind of tumor, teratomas. Doctors have found

many bodily structures, including fingers and even partially formed humans, in teratomas because their cells have the ability to form any kind of cell type or organ system within the tumor mass, said Dr. James T. Rutka, a pediatric neurosurgeon and chair of the University of Toronto's department of surgery who was not involved in the Maryland case.

"If they are absolutely certain this is a craniopharyngioma, it would be way less common" to have teeth or any body part, said Rutka, the editor-in-chief of the Journal of Neurosurgery and a past president of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons.

WORLD

Ukraine: Official says Putin got 'entire arsenal of means' to settle situation

FROM FRONT PAGE

Russia's upper house also recommended that Moscow recall its ambassador from Washington over Obama's comments.

Ukraine already had accused Russia on Friday of a "military invasion and occupation" of the Crimean peninsula, where Russia's Black Sea fleet is based. Ukrainian Prime Minister Arseny Yatsenyuk called on Moscow "to recall their forces, and to return them to their stations," according to the Interfax news agency. "Russian partners, stop provoking civil and military resistance in Ukraine."

The crisis was sparked when Ukraine's deposed president, Viktor Yanukovich, ditched a deal for closer ties to the EU and instead turned toward Moscow. Months of protests followed, culminating in security forces killing dozens of protesters and Yanukovich fleeing to Russia.

Ignoring Obama's warning, Putin said the "extraordinary situation in Ukraine" was putting at risk the lives of Russian citizens and military personnel stationed at a naval base that Moscow has maintained in the Black Sea peninsula since the Soviet collapse.

The U.N. Security Council called an urgent meeting on Ukraine on Saturday, and the European Union foreign ministers will hold an emergency meeting Monday to discuss the crisis.

Reflecting a degree of caution, Deputy Foreign Minister Grigory Karasin, who presented Putin's request to the upper house, told reporters that the motion doesn't mean that the president would immediately send additional troops to Ukraine.

"There is no talk about it yet," he said.

Putin's spokesman, Dmitry Peskov, said in remarks on Russia 24 television that while the president "got the entire arsenal of means necessary for settling this situation," he hadn't yet decided whether to use the Russian military in Ukraine or to recall the ambassador from Washington.

"He will make these decisions depending on how the situation will develop," Peskov said. "We would like to hope that the situation will not develop along the scenario it's developing now — that is inciting tensions and making a threat for the Russians on the Crimean peninsula."

The U.N. Security Council called an urgent meeting on Ukraine on Saturday, and the European Union foreign ministers will hold an emergency meeting Monday to discuss the crisis.

Putin's motion loosely refers to the "territory of Ukraine" rather than specifically to Crimea, raising the possibility that Moscow could use military force in other Russian-speaking areas in eastern and southern Ukraine, where many oppose the new authorities in Kiev. Pro-Russian protests were reported in the eastern cities of Kharkiv, Donetsk and Luhansk and the southern port of Odessa.

In Kharkiv, 97 people were



AP photos

Troops in unmarked uniforms stand guard on the outskirts of Sevastopol, Ukraine, on Saturday. An emblem on one of the vehicles and their number plates identify them as belonging to the Russian military.



A wounded pro-Western activist sits after clashes with pro-Russia activists at the local administration building in the northeastern city of Kharkiv on Saturday.

injured in clashes between pro-Russia demonstrators and supporters of the new Ukrainian government, according to the Interfax news agency.

Ukraine's population is divided in loyalties between Russia and Europe, with much of western Ukraine advocating closer ties with the European Union while eastern and southern regions look to Russia for support. Crimea, a semi-autonomous region of Ukraine, is mainly Russian-speaking.

In Saturday's parliamentary session in Moscow, a deputy house speaker said Obama had insulted Russia and crossed a "red line," and the upper house recommended the Russian ambassador in Washington be recalled. It will

be up to Putin to decide whether that happens.

In Crimea, the pro-Russian prime minister who took office after gunmen seized the regional Parliament claimed control of the military and police there and asked Putin for help in keeping peace, sharpening the discord between the two neighboring Slavic countries.

Ukraine's acting president, Oleksandr Turchynov, said the election of Sergei Aksyonov as prime minister of Crimea was invalid.

Ukrainian officials and some Western diplomats said that a Russian military intervention is already well underway after heavily armed gunmen in unmarked military uniforms seized control



Volunteers remove barricades after recent deadly clashes with riot police in center of Kiev on Saturday. Thousands of volunteers worked in the Ukrainian capital cleaning debris from the streets.

of local government buildings, airports and other strategic facilities in Crimea in recent days.

Crimea only became part of Ukraine in 1954 when Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev transferred jurisdiction from Russia. The Soviet breakup in 1991 meant Crimea landed in an independent Ukraine.

Russia put pressure on Ukraine from another direction when a spokesman for state gas company Gazprom said that Ukraine owed \$1.59 billion in overdue bills for imported gas. Sergei Kuprianov was quoted by the RIA-Novosti agency as saying the gas arrears would endanger a recent discount granted by Russia. The Russian payment demand and loss of the discount would accelerate

Ukraine's financial crisis.

Russia has taken a confrontational stance toward its southern neighbor after Yanukovich fled the country. Yanukovich was voted out of office by parliament after weeks of protests ended in violence that left more than 80 people dead.

Aksyonov, the Crimean leader, appealed to Putin "for assistance in guaranteeing peace and calmness on the territory of the autonomous republic of Crimea." Aksyonov was voted in by the Crimean parliament on Thursday after pro-Russia gunmen seized the building and as tensions soared over Crimea's resistance to the new authorities in Kiev, who took office this week.

WORLD

Iraqi army struggling in against Islamists in Anbar

By LOVEDAY MORRIS
The Washington Post

DIWANIYAH, Iraq — The United States is shipping arms to Iraq to help its army fight a Sunni Islamist insurgency in Anbar province. But some Iraqi soldiers argue that basic planning and supplies are just as sorely needed.

Lt. Col. Ihab Hashem, a deputy army commander based at the 8th Division headquarters in this southern city, recounted a series of what he said were poorly planned and executed missions in Anbar. There, the government is struggling to oust militants from the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria, an al-Qaida splinter group that has proved a formidable foe.

Hashem described one mission in early January in the Anbar capital of Ramadi, where the army is

trying to crush pockets of insurgency, as a "mess." The aim was to reach a bridge at the end of Street 60, a notorious stronghold for militants and tribesmen who seized the city in January. Troops from four divisions entered after sunset, he said, although only a few had night-vision goggles and the pre-mission briefing was weak.

"There were no maps, there were no details," he said in an interview last month while on leave, recovering from an injury. The convoy lost eight Humvees after coming under fire and hitting a roadside bomb, he said, and at least one soldier was killed.

"We reached the bridge but it was a disaster," he said, describing the purpose of the mission as "just to be there."

That operation was one of several ill-fated missions that have

characterized Iraq's battle against the group in Anbar and underscored the weakness of security forces that the United States spent more than \$20 billion to train and equip, according to the Congressional Research Service.

In December, more than a dozen soldiers, including a division commander and several high-ranking officers, were killed in an ambush as they attempted to clear one of the group's training camps. That incident prompted Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki to take a more assertive stance in Anbar, including by cracking down on Sunni demonstrators who were protesting against his Shiite-led government.

In another high-profile incident, four special forces soldiers were executed in late January after being captured by Islamist

UN says 703 killed in Iraq in February attacks

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — The United Nations said Saturday that violence across Iraq in February killed 703 people, a death toll higher than the year before as the country faces a rising wave of militant attacks rivaling the sectarian bloodshed that followed the U.S.-led invasion.

The figures issued by the U.N.'s mission to Iraq are near January's death toll of 733, showing that a surge of violence that began 10 months ago with a government crackdown on a Sunni protest camp is not receding. Meanwhile, attacks Saturday killed at least

five people and wounded 14, authorities said.

Attacks in February killed 564 civilians and 139 security force members in February, the U.N. said. The violence wounded 1,381, the vast majority civilians, it said. That compares to February 2013, when attacks killed 418 civilians and wounded 704.

The capital, Baghdad, was the worst affected with 239 people killed, according to the U.N. Two predominantly Sunni provinces — central Salahaddin with 121 killed and northern Nineveh with 94 killed — followed.

insurgents, who broadcast a video of their deaths on the Internet.

As the fight in Anbar has escalated, Washington has responded to pleas from the Iraqi government by stepping up deliveries of light arms, Hellfire missiles and

surveillance drones to Baghdad. Iraq also has turned to Iran for military support. Iran has signed a deal to sell Iraq ammunition and weapons worth \$195 million, Reuters reported on Monday, citing leaked documents.



ROMEO ABO/AP

Ex-Gitmo inmate faces Syria terror charges

The Associated Press

LONDON — A former Guantanamo Bay detainee and human rights activist was arraigned Saturday in a London court on charges of promoting terrorism in Syria.

Moazzam Begg, 45, a prominent defender of terrorist suspects' rights since his return to Britain in 2005, denied charges that he provided terrorist training and funded overseas terrorism. He was ordered held in custody until his next court appearance March 14. Begg was arrested Tuesday along with three others in Birmingham, Britain's second-largest city. One, Gerrie Tahari, 44, appeared alongside him in court Saturday and denied a charge of aiding overseas terrorism. Detectives still are questioning the two others, among them Tahari's 20-year-old son.

Begg was arrested in Pakistan in 2002 as an "enemy combatant." He was held by U.S. forces in Afghanistan and was sent a year later to the U.S.-run prison camp in Cuba. He was released without charge in 2005 and now helps to direct a London-based lobbying group called Cage.

Cage branded the charges against Begg as an attempt to silence him.



Begg

Protest in Venezuela

Anti-government demonstrators take cover from a police water cannon Friday in Caracas, Venezuela. The start of a weeklong string of holidays leading up to the March 5 anniversary of former President Hugo Chavez's death has not ended street protests there.

At least 27 dead, 109 hurt in knife attack in China

The Associated Press

BEIJING — A group of knife-wielding men attacked a train station in southwestern China on Saturday, leaving at least 27 people dead and another 109 injured, the official Xinhua News Agency said, making it one of the deadliest attacks in China in recent years.

Xinhua did not provide more details about the evening attack at the Kunming Railway Station in Yunnan province, nor identify the attackers. Kunming city police said they did not have any immediate information to release about the attack.

Local television station K6 said

that several of the attackers were shot by police and that victims were being transported to local hospitals.

The state-run Yunnan News said that the men were wearing uniforms when they stormed the railway station and that gunshots were heard after police responded.

Photos circulating online showed scattered luggage and bodies lying on the floor in blood.

The motive behind the attack was not immediately clear, but China has seen a number of mass stabbings and other attacks carried out by people bearing grudges against society.

WORLD

Iran: Religious beliefs rule out nuclear arms

By ALI AKBAR DAREINI
The Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran — Iran's president said the Islamic Republic has decided not to develop nuclear weapons out of principle, not only because it is prevented so by treaties.

Hassan Rouhani told Defense Ministry officials Saturday that, if Iran wanted weapons of mass destruction, it would be easier for it to make chemical or biological weapons.

Rouhani was reiterating a policy set by Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who issued a religious decree banning the production and use of nuclear weapons. He has said holding such arms is a sin as well as "useless, harmful and dangerous."

"We are not after weapons of mass destruction. That's our red line," he said. "If Iran was after weapons of mass destruction, it would build chemical weapons. Those are easier to make. It would build biological arms, which are even easier than making chemical weapons."

He said Iran's "beliefs" and commitment to "ethical principles," not merely the U.N.'s nuclear non-proliferation treaty, prevent it from making a bomb. Iran is a signatory to the NPT and says it will remain committed to its obligations not to build nuclear weapons under the treaty but will not compromise on its right to enrich uranium and produce nuclear fuel.

"We signed these treaties to show the world we are not after such weapons," he told military commanders. "Even if there

were no NPT or other treaties, our belief, our faith, our religion and principles tell us not to seek weapons of mass destruction."

The U.S. and its allies fear that Iran seeks to develop the ability to make a nuclear weapon, should it want one. Iran denies the charge, saying its nuclear program is peaceful and geared toward generating electricity and producing radioisotopes to treat cancer patients.

Rouhani said his government's policy of moderation and easing tensions with the outside world is "not a tactic" but a genuine change in the Islamic Republic's foreign policy.

"The foreign policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran is based on easing tensions and building confidence with the world. This is not a tactic or slogan. Iran is not seeking tensions with others ... but we don't

compromise on our dignity, independence, national interests and values," he said.

Rouhani said his countrymen elected him president in June to change Iran's foreign policy and shift away from the bombastic style adopted under his predecessor, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. He has said however that its principles — including maintaining a peaceful nuclear program — will not change.

That policy, also supported by Khamenei, led to a historic interim nuclear deal with world powers Nov. 24 in Geneva.

Iran stopped enriching uranium to 20 percent and started neutralizing its existing stockpile of that grade — just steps away from weapons material — in January in order to fulfill commitments reached under the deal.

Australians near mine fire advised to evacuate

By ROD MCGUIRK
The Associated Press

CANBERRA, Australia — The elderly, young children and pregnant women were advised Friday to evacuate an Australian town that has been shrouded by smoke and ash from a burning coal mine for almost three weeks.

Victoria state Chief Health Officer Rosemary Lester said vulnerable residents were advised to leave the town of Morwell as a precaution because the fire in the nearby Hazelwood Coal Mine is expected to spew smoke for at least 10 more days.

Residents of Morwell, a town of 14,000 in the Latrobe Valley east of Melbourne, have complained of chest ailments and headaches caused by the acrid smoke.

Lester said that health workers had not yet seen serious health effects from the smoke, and that there had not been a sharp increase in ambulance calls or hospital admissions.

"But we do know that the longer the vulnerable people spend in the fine particles from the smoke, that that's a continuing risk to them," she said.

In addition to people aged over 65 years, under school-age children and pregnant women, Lester advised people with pre-existing heart and lung problems to temporarily leave town.

Graciele Middlemiss, a Morwell resident and elected member of the local council, said some people



Freighters battle a fire burning at the Hazelwood Coal Mine at Morwell, Australia, on Tuesday.

had already left town because of the smoke and that authorities should have been quicker to respond.

The Guardian reported that Britain has no restrictions to prevent Americans' images from being accessed by GCHQ analysts without an individual warrant.

Yahoo, an American multinational company based in Sunnyvale, Calif., said it was not aware of the activity, nor would it condone it. "This report, if true, represents a whole new level of violation of our users' privacy that is completely unacceptable," a Yahoo representative said in an email.

The paper reported that the

Report: UK spy agency collected images of Yahoo webcam chats

ELLEN NAKASHIMA
The Washington Post

The British spy agency GCHQ, aided by systems provided by the National Security Agency, collected still images of Yahoo webcam chats in bulk and saved them to its databases, regardless of whether the users were intelligence targets, according to a report in The Guardian on Thursday.

The program was code-named Optic Nerve, according to documents obtained by the British newspaper from former NSA contractor Edward Snowden.

Between 2008 and 2010, and in one six-month period in 2008, the agency collected webcam images, "including substantial quantities of sexually explicit communications," from more than 1.8 million Yahoo user accounts globally, the paper reported.

The Guardian reported that Britain has no restrictions to prevent Americans' images from being accessed by GCHQ analysts without an individual warrant.

Yahoo, an American multinational company based in Sunnyvale, Calif., said it was not aware of the activity, nor would it condone it. "This report, if true, represents a whole new level of violation of our users' privacy that is completely unacceptable," a Yahoo representative said in an email.

The paper reported that the

documents "chronicle GCHQ's sustained struggle to keep the large store of sexually explicit imagery collected by Optic Nerve away from the eyes of its staff, though there is little discussion about the privacy implications

of storing this material in the first place."

Yahoo's statement said the Silicon Valley firm "strongly call[s] on the world's governments to reform surveillance law" consistent with the principles outlined in December by U.S. tech firms.

But Christopher Sohoian, principal technologist with the American Civil Liberties Union, said, "Yahoo deserves the majority of the blame here" for not shielding customers' privacy.

"The technology to protect your users doesn't require some kind of Manhattan Project," he said. "It's just sitting there. Anyone can use it."

Citing elderly, Seoul proposes regular family reunions with N. Korea

The Associated Press

SEOUL — South Korea's president on Saturday proposed the rival Koreas hold reunions of Korean War-divided families on a regular basis, saying time was running out for the elderly separated by hostilities and politics.

South Korea has made similar proposals in the past, but

President Park Geun-hye's latest overture came after the two Koreas last month held their first reunions of families separated by the 1950-53 Korean War in more than three years.

"There are separated families in North Korea as well. I believe North Korea should also ease the anguish and pain of its people,"

she said in a speech marking Korea's 1919 uprising against Japan's colonial rule.

North Korea didn't immediately respond to Park's proposal. Analysts say North Korea has been reluctant to increase family reunions due to worries that doing so could open the country to influence from affluent South Korea

and threaten its grip on power.

The latest six-day family reunions were arranged after North Korea began calling for better ties with South Korea in what outside analysts say is an effort to win foreign aid and investment.

North Korea earlier threatened to cancel the reunions in anger over annual military drills be-

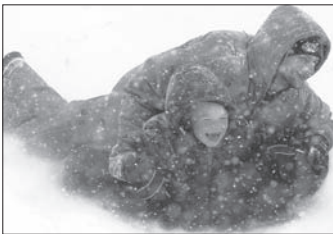
tween Seoul and Washington that it calls a preparation for invasion.

The North let the reunions proceed after high-level talks with South Korea, though the drills went ahead as scheduled. In an apparent protest of the drills, South Korea said North Korea fired four short-range Scud missiles into the sea on Thursday.

NATION



MARTIN KIDSTON, THE (MISSOULA, MONT.) MISSOULIAN/AP



JESSICA A. STEWART, THE ST. JOSEPH (MO.) NEWS-PRESS/AP



LM OTERO/AP

From left: Bicycles are covered in snow drifts Friday as much of downtown Missoula, Mont., was deserted due to a snowstorm; Memphis Moore, 6, and his dad, Travis Tittsworth, sled down the hill at Noyes Field in St. Joseph, Mo.; Olive Larsen, 3, sticks out her tongue to catch snow as her mother, Liz Larsen, carries her in a light snowfall in the Dallas suburb of Richardson, Texas.

In the grip of a weather obsession

E-devices, 24/7 forecasts feed what appears to be another modern-day preoccupation

BY MACKENZIE CARPENTER
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

PITTSBURGH
L ois Rutherford is a hardy 74-year-old who has seen some rough weather in her day: "Charlie, David, Hugo," she said while standing on a frigid Pittsburgh viewing deck recently, ticking off the names of hurricanes that have raked her hometown of Charleston, S.C.

But Hercules? Janus? Those studly "named" winter blizzards — introduced by The Weather Channel in 2012 — didn't ring a bell with Rutherford, who nonetheless describes herself as happily obsessed with weather coverage.

"I love the weather. It may be 7 degrees, but it doesn't bother me one little bit, and I am not going to let it stop me from coming up here before I go back to Charleston tomorrow," she said.

"Where it's 60 degrees," noted her son Ron, of Bethel Park, Pa., as he nudged her to get back in the car.

With a so-called polar vortex playing multiple visits to Pittsburgh so far this winter, people seem to be reacting to the frigid temperatures in three different ways:

■ They hibernate (even though humans are not hibernating

animals).

■ They recreate (take that any way you want, but we're referring to those who like to ski, skate or ice fish).

■ Or they fixate, like Rutherford, on the weather.

The windchill factor. Record lows, record highs. Snow drift patterns. In the summer, dew points and derechos (straight-line winds). In the winter, Alberta clippers, polar vortexes and now snowstorms named for Greek gods.

"We Americans love our weather," said Justin Roberti, a spokesman for AccuWeather, the for-profit service based in State College, Pa. "Weather is very personal to us. We use it to run our lives, and we're very emotional about it."

As compared to what other country? France?

"Europe isn't as into weather as we are," he said — although he hastily added that AccuWeather actually provides weather for every longitude and latitude in 27 languages, "and we are seen by a billion people per day."

Have people always been this way? Or are we in the grip of yet another unhealthy modern-day addiction fed by media, whether in the guise of local TV weather forecasts, Internet sites, blogs,

mobile apps or 24/7 cable weather channels?

Weather source

It appears the latter is true, even as the weather business is being buffeted by the winds of change. A two-week standoff between The Weather Channel and DirecTV has rolled the viewing habits of hundreds of thousands, even as that other big for-profit weather player, AccuWeather, seeks to leverage the dispute to attract publicity for its own planned 24/7 weather channel.

All of this is happening in an era when weather junkies can check radar on their smartphone and the idea of a 24/7 weather channel is looking more and more like a relic of the 1980s, when cable television was in its infancy and the need for content was acute.

Today, 67 percent of people age 40 or older still rely on television weather — whether local or cable — first and foremost, according to the Pew Research Center, compared with 21 percent who rely on the Internet.

Under age 40, though, it's more of a tie, with 44 percent relying on television and 41 percent relying on the Internet.

In such a climate, the economics of round-the-clock coverage, at least when skies are clear, appear increasingly murky, and in recent years, more than 40 percent of The Weather Channel's programming has been dedicated to reality shows, not weather — an approach that actually brings in higher ratings during quiet spells, Weather Channel spokeswoman Shirley Powell said.

A storm brews

On Jan. 14, DirecTV stopped carrying The Weather Channel after negotiations broke down, claiming in a statement that the channel had strayed too far from its mission — "Consumer un-

derstand there are now a variety of other ways to get weather coverage, free of reality show clutter."

There are reports that the satellite broadcaster wants reduced the fees it pays The Weather Channel, which is co-owned by NBCUniversal, by 20 percent. It also added no-frills WeatherNation, which uses a three-hour taped loop instead of broadcasting live.

The Weather Channel cried foul, calling WeatherNation a cheaper version of itself without the kind of experience and deep bench strength it possesses — 220 meteorologists are on staff there.

More than 4 million customers have complained about DirecTV's move on keeptheweatherchannel.com, the company claims.

Do people really need two weather cable channels — or any?

Sure they do, especially this winter, when a certain sense of community seems to have evolved as we remain trapped together under an iron dome of cold that dulls the sky, bleaches dark asphalt streets a chalky white and makes metal railings burn to the touch.



Bella, a Yorkshire terrier, chases Dakota Gruver, 7, down a slope at the Hillendale Golf Course in Durham, N.C.

CRUCK LIDDY,
THE (RALEIGH, N.C.) NEWS & OBSERVER/AP

LIFESTYLE

'After more than 100 years in decline, cider is making a massive comeback'

By STEVE CAMPBELL
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

Cider was once America's drink. But after getting buried by beer and trampled by the temperance movement, one of the world's oldest alcoholic beverages is fermenting a rebirth.

"After more than 100 years in decline, cider is making a massive comeback," said Will McClatchey, director of research at the Botanical Research Institute of Texas (BRIT) in Fort Worth, Texas, who has been studying cider orchards around the world since 2005.

Now they are popping up around him.

Englishman Ed Gibson, who rolled out the first batch of hard cider two years ago from his company, Austin Eastciders, says: "The renaissance is happening right in front of us. Even the big guys like Anheuser-Busch and Stella-Artois are bringing out ciders."

This isn't the sweet apple juice that most Americans think of as cider. The hard stuff is usually fermented from the myriad varieties of tart, bittersweet apples grown for drinking, not eating, McClatchey said.

While cider is still a niche market, the rise in U.S. sales is an eye opener.

According to Impact Databank, which tracks statistics for the wine, beer and spirits industry, the top 10 cider brands in the U.S. collectively grew by 62 percent in 2012.

The comeback has been driven by the same foodie mindset that cherishes local products and that has sparked an explosion in craft beer and micro distilling, McClatchey said.

Traveling to 23 countries, he interviewed nearly 500 cider makers, most of whom own small farms, about their methods of producing a beverage that goes back thousands of years.

"We were trying to understand how people managed these cider operations before the industrial age," said McClatchey, who started the biodiversity project with colleague Dave Reedy at the University of Hawaii and then brought it with him to BRIT in 2010.

Along the way, the pair compiled in-depth tasting evaluations of ciders from 1,500 small farmers and 1,000 commercial operations.

"The flavors and colors are all over the place," McClatchey said. "Some of them I hated, and others were delicious."

The scientist recently poured an around-the-world tasting of a dozen or so ciders ranging from Appalachian "rocket fuel" to nuanced French and Spanish "apple wines" to traditional dry ciders.

The liquid tour of far-flung fermented apple derivatives vividly illustrated that

the bubble-gum sweet hard ciders that Americans might have experienced are far removed from what Europeans are drinking. Or what our American ancestors were drinking.

But early Americans weren't necessarily drinking cider as a "means to get sauced," McClatchey said. They were sanitizing polluted drinking water.

Orchards across America grew hundreds of cider apple varieties to crush, ferment and create alcohol that was mixed in a 50/50 blend with water to kill bacteria.

"People would be drinking a gallon a day of low-alcohol cider," he said.

McClatchey has found a few remnants of those heritage orchards still producing fruit in North Texas. Most of them were atop two shallow limestone outcroppings where

the soil is conducive to orchards.

He and his wife based their house hunt on that geology when they moved to the area. Now he's growing 80 apple trees and 100 grape vines on his 2-acre lot in suburban Fort Worth.

What started the decline of cider in America was the advent of deep-water drilling methods that lessened the dependence on surface water or shallow wells, McClatchey said.

Two other factors helped kill cider: The preference for beer by many European immigrants and the

spread of the temperance movement, which eventually led to many of the old cider orchards being chopped down during Prohibition.

Gibson in Austin and two young entrepreneurs in Houston and Dallas are working to reboot the tradition in Texas. "There's a renaissance in the cider industry right now," says Jake Schiffer, 24, who started Texas' first licensed cidery, Leprechaun Cider Co., three years ago in Houston with money his parents had saved for his college education.

Schiffer, who was introduced to ciders in Ireland and Italy, teamed up with the largest apple orchard in Oregon to produce his recipes for six ciders. Now he's working to convince people that cider is more than a sweet "girl's drink."

"In Italy it's like apple champagne," he said. "In my introduction to it in Ireland, it was these big rugby players drinking pints of cider all night long."

But when he came back home, he noticed that although there were hundreds of craft beers and micro-distilled spirits on the shelves, there were only a few mass-market sweet ciders.

"I decided I wanted to do something different," Schiffer said.

Schiffer started selling to just three bars. Then he "got very lucky" when his distributor landed Leprechaun in Whole Foods Markets within two weeks.

Last year, the company sold 50,000 gallons of cider, which takes a mountain of apples. Producing just one bottle requires 80 apples. That amounts to 120 tons of fruit for every 15,000 gallons of cider, Schiffer said.

Marketing is still challenging, he said.

"Cider is the redheaded stepchild of the alcohol industry," Schiffer said. "People don't realize that ciders are like wines and craft beer."



Hard cider bottles collected at the Botanical Research Institute of Texas give an idea of the variety available.



PHOTOS BY
KIMBERLY
BOUAPHANH/
Fort Worth
Star-Telegram

Will McClatchey of the Botanical Research Institute of Texas has been studying cider orchards since 2005.

LIFESTYLE

his is not your dad's stuffed deer head. After decades of being relegated to man caves and hunting lodges, taxidermy is hip.

Three television shows delve into the art of preserving animals, and its practitioners, who are, as you might imagine, a quirky lot. There are national taxidermy competitions and conferences and even a Brooklyn museum devoted to the art.

At Bazaar, a curiosity shop in Baltimore that opened last year, taxidermied ducklings that died soon after pecking through their shells, jars with preserved fox and coyote heads and even a rare albino raccoon are on display. The shop can't keep up with the demand for the taxidermy workshops it started hosting last month.

Tickets for an upcoming class on preserving moles — and outfitting them with eyeglasses and coffee mugs — sold out within minutes, said Bazaar co-owner Greg Hatem, 26.

"We had people lined up at the door to get in the class," he said.

Unlike the stuffed bucks and bears of years past, today's taxidermy skews toward the fanciful. Think two-headed squirrels, goats with fishtails or mice wearing peticos.

Practitioners are more likely to scour country roads for dead animals than hunt. And, in contrast to the boys club atmosphere in most taxidermy shops, many of the biggest names in taxidermy today are women.

"It's like any other art," said Miranda Beck, 36, a Baltimore aesthetician. "It's so interesting to me to have these wild, untamable animals in my living room, to bring the wilderness in."

Beck vowed to learn taxidermy to mark her 30th birthday, and, since then, she has preserved eight animals. And that's not counting the pets she mummified for friends or the earrings she fashioned from deer vertebrae.

Brian Henry, left, and Greg Hatem are owners of Bazaar, a Baltimore shop that specializes in oddities and taxidermied creatures.

Algorina Perna
The Baltimore Sun/MCT



24, handed out scalpels and latex gloves, which, she said, most people prefer to wear. She is a taxidermist-in-residence at Brooklyn's Morbid Anatomy Museum. She has been featured on two TV shows, "Oddities" and "Odd Folks Home," and has taught workshops around the country.

Innamorato floated through the classroom, guiding students as they pushed in the scalpels just below the base of the guinea pigs' skulls. They sliced along the spine, then peeled the skin from the creatures' muscles and viscera, which, several people pointed out, looked rather like raw chicken.

Jody Sanford, 51, collected the discarded organs and muscles to leave in the woods near her farm for other animals to eat.

The guinea pigs used for the class were "feeders" — animals bred to be fed to snakes or other pets. Rogue taxidermists generally do not kill creatures for taxidermy, preferring to use road kill or animals that have died naturally. However, animals that have been killed for food, either human or pet, occupy a "gray area," Marbury said.

Such animals are often used for workshops, as they are likely to be in good condition and free of diseases or pests.

Eleni Diamantopoulos had her own way of demonstrating respect for her guinea pig. She gave it a name: Eloise.

A graphic designer, Diamantopoulos and her wife, artist Nikki Diamantopoulos, said they've gotten hooked on taxidermy since Bazaar opened last year. They have several pieces in their Baltimore home and gave taxidermied ducklings to guests at their wedding last summer.

Despite her appreciation for taxidermy, Eleni Diamantopoulos said the actual act of specializing into the dead body of a guinea pig made her queasy.

The room smelled like rubbing alcohol — which is used to dry and preserve the skins — and a faint animal smell a little like cat food.

The work was tedious. After removing the animals' muscles and organs, the students spent more than an hour scraping

They've got the right stuff

Roadkill, small animals transformed into art at Baltimore taxidermy shop

By JULIE SCHARPER ♦ The Baltimore Sun

Beck, who grew up in the city, said her closest brushes with wildlife as a child were taxidermied animals in the Smithsonian. A self-described "anatomy geek," she savors studying animals she never before was able to get close to in the wild.

While modern taxidermy — the practice of preserving, stuffing and mounting animals — arose in the 1700s, the current fascination is inspired by the whimsical creations of the Victorian era, said Robert Marbury. He is a Baltimore resident, although he's also the president of the Minnesota Association of Rogue Taxidermists.

While traditional taxidermists attempt to create a perfect specimen of an animal in a lifelike pose, rogue taxidermists create chimeras — say the head of a chicken on a body of a cat — or pose animals to make them look human. The works are playful, sometimes tongue-in-cheek, and often quite beautiful.

Marbury says taxidermy provides a connection to the visceral realities of fur and bone and death, even — a sharp contrast to the virtual worlds that consume us.

Beck was among a dozen people who flew to Bazaar for a guinea pig skin-making workshop on a recent Sunday.

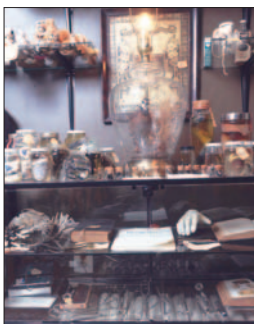


PHOTOS BY KAITLIN NEWMAN, THE BALTIMORE SUN/MCT

Above: Bazaar offers taxidermy classes to the public where participants can take home their creations.

Right: A sampling of products available for purchase at Bazaar.

A partially thawed guinea pig was placed in front of each seat, and participants studied them carefully, picking the furry face they found most appealing. Some of the students looked a little queasy as the real-



ity of the day's tasks sunk in.

"If anyone needs some fresh air, you can go out the front door," said Bazaar co-owner Brian Henry, 25.

Workshop instructor Katie Innamorato,

bits of tissue off the inside of the skin, a process called "fleshing."

Participants then soaked the skins, dried them, stuffed them and sewed them back up. The faces required delicate work, as did preserving the creatures' fragile ears.

As the students sewed quail wings to the guinea pigs' backs, Innamorato explained that the list of animals on which you can perform taxidermy is rather short. Many birds are considered protected species, and can't be used for taxidermy even when they are found dead. Laws about preserving larger animals, such as deer, vary widely from state to state.

Then it was time for the final touches. The participants rolled little balls of clay under the animals' mouths to shape their facial expressions. They pushed ball-headed pins into the eye sockets and used wires to adjust the guinea pigs' limbs.

Leann Hoerr, a 31-year-old office manager from Bel Air, Md., said she thought her 7-year-old daughter would love the winged guinea pig. She planned to keep it in the bookcase where her family displays special pictures.

"It's your own design," she said. "Your own doll in animal form."

MUSIC

WHERE IT'S AT

Beck's new 'Morning Phase'
a refreshing, superior companion
to 2002's much-lauded 'Sea Change'

By MIKAEL WOOD
Los Angeles Times

Beck made his name as a recycler, a smart, savvy searcher known for finding new value in old things. So it makes sense that the artist responsible for "Mellow Gold" and "Odelay," both high points of mid-'90s cut-and-paste pop, would eventually get around to recycling himself.

That's more or less what Beck does on his latest album, "Morning Phase." With the same downbeat acoustic vibe and many of the same players, the new record serves as a kind of spiritual sequel — a "companion piece," his camp calls it — to 2002's "Sea Change," on which the singer broke from his established collage aesthetic to offer up a dozen slow-and-low folk songs about the pain of heartache.

True to his transformer's nature, the sequel is better than the original.

For all that connects "Morning Phase" to "Sea Change," the two records come out of very different circumstances. On the earlier album, Beck was pondering the end of his relationship with a longtime girlfriend, but he was also looking for a bridge to the next phase of his career after 1999's polarizing absurdist-soul fantasia "Midnite Vultures."

Now he's a married 43-year-old father of two whose commercial success and tastemaker acclaim have afforded him the leeway to do pretty much whatever he wants. Though "Morning Phase" is Beck's first studio record since "Modern Guilt" in 2008, it follows a smattering of left-field projects that speak to his prestige: "Song Reader," a collection of tunes issued only as sheet music; writing and production gigs on records by Stephen Malkmus and the Lonely Island; an elaborate performance of David Bowie's "Sound and Vision"

sponsored by the carmaker Lincoln.

You can hear the effect of that privileged stability all over "Morning Phase," which employs a similar palette as "Sea Change" — acoustic guitar, spacey synth, string arrangements by Beck's father, David Campbell — to achieve a far lush sound, with stronger melodies, deeper grooves and more expressive singing.

Beck's bassist, Justin Meldal-Johnsen, recently told the *Los Angeles Times* that the new album is "minimal beyond anything we had done before," but even if that's true in some technical sense, it's not at all the way "Morning Phase" works. The trippy keyboards in "Unforgiven," the unexpected chord changes in "Morning" — these hand-some details provide more sensation, not less.

Though much of Beck's early music is as appealing now as it was when it was released, "Sea Change" suffers considerably from the comparison with "Morning Phase"; the older songs feel punishingly drab, while Beck sounds fine he's half-asleep in most of them.



Beck

Morning Phase (Capitol)

Given his emotional state at the time he made it, perhaps that lifelessness was his goal. (The album does contain a song called "Already Dead.") But it's no match for the luscious sensuality of the new "Heart Is a Drum" or the dreamy thrum of "Blue Moon" — even if it's hard to know where this family



Photos courtesy of Nasty Little Man

man and constant collaborator is coming from when he insists in the latter, "I'm so tired of being alone."

Which means that the only basis for ranking "Sea Change," frequently described as a masterpiece, over "Morning Phase" is a bad old-fashioned authenticity fetish — the belief that drawing directly on real-life experience (as with Beck's breakup) necessarily yields more meaningful music than that which pulls from imagination or invention.

But if Beck has taught us anything over the course of his hopscooting two-decade career, isn't it to distrust that quaintly outmoded idea?

What feels far more important than whether he actually saw "the sleet that rests upon the quiet street we're standing on" in "Say Goodbye" is the sense the song gives of that sleet and that street. Even more important than that, perhaps, is the lack of particulars in the song regarding both.

One reason "Sea Change" might sound so squeezed-dry is because we

know too much about its origin. "Morning Phase," by contrast, is full of fuzzy West Coast philosophizing that rarely gives up anything easily linkable to Beck's celebrity existence.

"We could come to understand what's wrong is right as rain," he muses in "Blackbird Chain," which I think we can all agree is preferable to whatever he might've written explicitly about the back injury he said he suffered after "Modern Guilt."

Before "Sea Change" and its perceived confessions, of course, that fuzziness was Beck's default mode. "A devil's haircut in my mind" — how exactly does that work?

Yet somehow we began to expect something different from Beck, something more knowable, once he had his guitar strapped on.

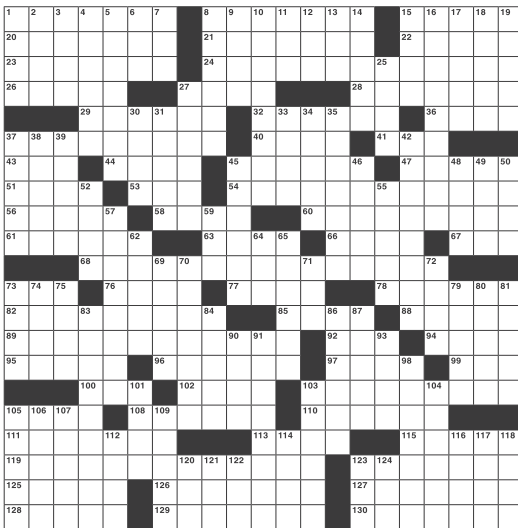
Over music that feels lighter than air even as it takes on shades of gloom, the comfortable fortysomething dad on "Morning Phase" refreshes that familiar pose with some welcome mystery.

CROSSWORD AND COMICS

NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD

REEL-LIFE ANNIVERSARY By A NAMESAKE OF 119-ACROSS/Edited by Will Shortz

- ACROSS**
- 1 Bush judicial appointee
- 8 Quarterbacks, often
- 15 Bush judicial appointee
- 20 Professional tennis since 1968
- 21 Rank
- 22 Singer with the album "Live at the Polynesian Palace"
- 23 Time for the best deals, maybe, in a going-out-of-business sale
- 24 *1939 Judy Garland film
- 26 There was a great one in Genesis
- 27 One-named designer
- 28 Lava comes out of it
- 29 Kind of car or tee
- 32 Appear suddenly
- 38 Slaughter in the 1946 World Series
- 37 *1933 Jean Harlow film
- 40 "Nuts!"
- 41 Gator's tail?
- 43 D-backs, on scoreboards
- 44 Daily rite
- 45 How things may be brought
- 47 Pass
- 51 Restful places
- 53 Each
- 54 *1943 Spencer Tracy/Irene Dunne film
- 56 Is threatening, in a way
- 58 Colorist
- 60 Self-absorbed sort
- 61 Hit
- 63 Some kitchenware
- 66 Call from a curb
- 67 Sprint competitor, once
- 68 *1939 Vivien Leigh/Clark Gable film
- 73 ___ king
- 76 Sprint
- 77 Word of agreement
- 78 2000s events in North Korea, for short
- 82 Provider of music on the go?
- 85 Court grp.
- 88 Footnote abbr.
- 89 *1942 Spencer Tracy/Hedy Lamarr film
- 92 Odist's preposition
- 94 When repeated, a Polynesian capital
- 95 Publish
- 96 Drinkers' toasts
- 97 Brother of George W. and Jeb
- 99 Award for Miss Hawaii, in addition to a daria
- 100 Summer hrs.
- 102 Snow queen in Disney's "Frozen"
- 103 *1948 Ingrid Bergman film
- 105 Elegance
- 108 eBay user
- 110 Certain newspaper advertisement
- 111 Like Christiane Amanpour, by unbinging
- 113 Pub containers
- 115 Perfect, as a home
- 119 Director of the eight starred films in this puzzle, who was born on 2/23/1889
- 123 Torrey Pines Golf Course locale
- 125 Suffer humiliation, in slang
- 126 Comeback
- 127 Brooks Robinson's team
- 128 Sitcom with a 1974 wedding
- 129 Foreign traveler's purchase, maybe
- 130 Source of the line "What's past is prologue," with "The"
- DOWN**
- 1 Message therapeutically
- 2 ___ blue
- 3 "I should ___ lucky"
- 4 Put into a sepulcher
- 5 *1932 Clark Gable/Jean Harlow film
- 6 La-la lead-in
- 7 Perhaps
- 8 Migratory seabird
- 9 Vier + vier
- 10 What Babe wants to be in "Babe"
- 11 Finish (up)
- 12 New Haven reuner
- 13 "Fraser" role
- 14 Major glitch
- 15 Puts together
- 16 Things that should be tied up by the curtain?
- 17 Playfully
- 18 Complete, informally
- 19 Transudes
- 25 Beatles title girl
- 27 Queen of literature
- 30 Send off
- 31 Gave up
- 33 Birthplace of 22-Across
- 34 Hunts, with "on"
- 35 Lacking variety
- 37 Gives up, in slang
- 38 "Then again, I could be wrong"
- 39 Adult's counterpart
- 42 Obsessed with
- 45 Fortnetelling aids
- 46 1980s-'90s series based on the fictional film McKenzie, Brackman, Chaney & Kuzak
- 48 Doing ___ (dancing springily)
- 49 Basis in accounting
- 50 Head to Paris?
- 52 Overly confident
- 55 Recipe instruction
- 57 Wiry-coated terriers
- 59 Lead-in to Pen, commercially
- 62 Genueflect
- 64 Night that "Friends" aired: Abbr.
- 65 Swashbuckles, say
- 69 Some London lords
- 70 Effected, in a bad way
- 71 "___ ba-a-ack!"
- 72 "Ed Wood" star
- 73 When the story begins, perhaps
- 74 1960s U.S. bombing target
- 75 Flight board info: Abbr.
- 79 Milan's La ___
- 80 Go-getter
- 81 Unemotive
- 83 Means of access, to a cafeteria, maybe
- 84 In past centuries
- 86 Joint parts
- 87 Specialties
- 90 Give off coherent light
- 91 Overreacting sort
- 93 Essen article
- 98 *1925 Percy Marmont film
- 101 One way to the top
- 103 Pub measure
- 104 1960s western sitcom
- 105 Chopped ___
- 106 ___ Heap (Dickens character)
- 107 Blade brand
- 109 Red opening?
- 112 Bit
- 114 "Render ___ Caesar ..."
- 116 Shelfmate of Vogue
- 117 Tavern stock
- 118 Place for a topgallant
- 120 Lash holder
- 121 Green monitor, for short?
- 122 Finish (up)
- 123 Fate
- 124 "___ we done?"



- 70 Effected, in a bad way
- 71 "___ ba-a-ack!"
- 72 "Ed Wood" star
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GUNSTON STREET



"Gunston Street" is drawn by Basil Zaviski. E-mail him at gunstonstreet@yahoo.com, and visit gunstonstreet.com.

RESULTS FOR ABOVE PUZZLE



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VIDEO GAMES



Step into the silent shoes of Garrett, a dark and lonely thief with an unrivaled set of skills, in "Thief" where nothing — the most challenging heists, the most inaccessible loot, the best-kept secrets — is out of your reach.

Photos courtesy of Square Enix

Overall grade: **B**

Copycat burglar

'Thief' steals a few tricks from 'Dishonored'

By BRIAN BOWERS
Stars and Stripes

The hero stalks the streets of a squalid, plague-ravaged city, seeking to undermine a corrupt leadership that cares nothing for the sick and poor. His primary tools are stealth and uncanny acrobatic abilities, but he is equipped to fight if necessary.

This describes Garrett, the hero of "Thief," the new action game developed by Eidos for Square Enix. It also describes Corvo from "Dishonored," which was released by Bethesda Softworks a little more than a year ago. Of course this



leads to comparison, and "Thief" doesn't always stack up well against its predecessor, which was one of the best games of the past two years. However, it is a very enjoyable game when considered in isolation.

The "Thief" franchise got its start on PCs about 15 years ago. The three original games were considered trend-setters in the stealth genre. They featured Garrett, a master thief who eschewed violence, as he prowled through a city that straddled the divide between medieval and industrial. The latest game, which is more of a reboot than a sequel, brings back most of these elements as it tells its tale.

Garrett is hired to "visit" a mansion and is teamed with a former protegee, the impulsive and often violent Erin. It's a combination that doesn't mix well with the careful and less-lethal master thief, and it caused the two to part ways previously. However, they decide to complete



the mission together.

As the duo gain access to the mansion's roof and peer through a skylight, they witness a mysterious ceremony. Things go downhill from there as they are caught up in an otherworldly burst of energy. The next thing you know, Garrett is waking up a year later and everything has declined dramatically, with a sort of urban rot settling upon the City and "the gloom" afflicting its citizens.

For the rest of the game, you use your burglary skills to unravel what has happened to your hometown — and lift a few sparkly baubles along the way.

You spend most of your time climbing, jumping, picking pockets, picking locks and disabling traps. And you need to be stealthy, which requires lurking in the shadows, hiding in cabinets and climbing to places where guards' eyes are unlikely to fall. An indicator on the screen lets you know when you are in shadows, and vi-

sual and audio cues let you know when guards are getting suspicious or danger is looming.

Garrett can get a boost to his skills by engaging his "focus" ability, which helps him see and understand more about his surroundings. As a result, he can perform a variety of tasks much more efficiently, such as picking locks more quickly, locating traps and aiming arrows with increased skill. Of course, Garrett's abilities seem a bit pedestrian when compared to those of Corvo. The hero of "Dishonored" can teleport, bend time, possess the bodies of animals and people and summon rats to attack foes.

Beyond his natural skills and "focus," Garrett's ability to accomplish his missions is tied to his gadgets. He has a grapple that allows him to scale walls more easily, a wrench to gain access to ducts and a wire cutter to deal with traps. But most importantly, Garrett has a good

selection of special arrows that enable him to extinguish torches, anchor ropes to high places, knock out foes, start fires and even turn off switches for electrical lights. (For some reason, a society that has mastered electricity still uses torches and candles — and still uses crossbows instead of firearms.) Garrett's missions are usually well designed, with interesting tales to tell and engaging challenges. Most challenges involve using Garrett's abilities and tools to navigate around the cityscape in search of his target. However, developers threw in some good puzzles to raise the bar in a few cases.

Between missions included in the main storyline, you can explore the area around the clock tower that Garrett calls home. You can visit shops to replenish supplies or buy upgrades. And you can accept side missions from your friend — and fence — Basso. These generally involve liberating some shiny trinket from underserving hands.

Unfortunately, the city isn't the sort of large open arena that's available in other games these days. It's broken up into a number of smaller segments that are pieced together like a tricky puzzle. To go from one end to the other involves finding the right access points between the segments and waiting for each to load. As a result, cross-city movement can get tedious.

I played the game on the Xbox One, which boasts much better graphics and processing power than the previous generation of consoles. I expected lavish renderings filled with detail and texture. However, I was a bit disappointed.

The settings were generally pretty good, depicting a gloomy half-medieval city in distress. However, they weren't exactly leaps and bounds ahead of cityscapes we've seen on the Xbox 360 or PlayStation 3. And the characters were actually disappointing. Faces were somewhat soft and lacking in texture. And animations were good, but didn't reach the level of realism I'd expect from the newest generation of consoles.

The controls are smooth, but a few commands seemed counterintuitive. For example, the jump command is mapped to the left trigger, which is a very unusual setup.

It could be said that the game earns its mature rating for violence and sexual situations. However, you can play without engaging in much mayhem. But that leaves the sexual situations. In one mission you sneak into a bordello, which contains a few topless courtesans. The mission involves a bit of peeping as you search for clues to a puzzle, and one of the rooms contains a couple having sex.

Bottom line: "Thief" delivers an enjoyable experience, but will seem overly familiar to gamers who have played "Dishonored."

Platforms: PlayStation 4, PlayStation 4, Xbox 360, Xbox One
Online: thiefgame.com



Many more staff-written game reviews at stripes.com/military-life

ENTERTAINMENT

Hollywood royalty

Singer-actress Queen Latifah discusses fame, talk show gig

By PATRICIA SHERIDAN
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Born Dana Owens, she first became noticed as a hip-hop rapper in her teens, but it didn't take long for Newark, N.J.'s Queen Latifah to blossom into a world-class entertainer.

At 43, she counts a Grammy, a Golden Globe and two Screen Actors Guild awards among her triumphs, and this year, a People's Choice Award for best new talk show host. She also earned an Oscar nomination for her role in the film "Chicago." She recently marked the 100th episode of "The Queen Latifah Show," which airs weekdays on the CW.

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette: I saw you marry all those couples at the Grammy Awards, but I read you are not a minister. What did you do to be able to perform the marriage ceremony?

Queen Latifah: Well, I'm definitely not an ordained minister; that requires a lot more. I was deputized as a commissioner by the State of California to be able to do that. I had to get sworn in, and it was just for a limited amount of time. It was like Cinderella (laughs).

Was fame something you had to adjust to, or did you know what you were getting into?

The only part of being famous that I probably wanted growing up was enough fame to get into clubs for free (laughs). Because I was hanging out in New York City and I wanted to be able to get the hook-up. I really became famous because of music. Music was really the love that I had and you know, (music brought about) business opportunities to be able to change the circumstances for my family — to buy my mom a house and do things for my family and friends. That was the goal. The fame came along with that.

You did what you loved.

I did what I loved. I always did what I loved, and so fame was an adjustment for me. It took me to crazy places. All of a sudden people looked at me, and I was supposed to be a role model. I was 17 years old when my first single came out. I was a kid. It was kind of a lot of responsibility. I felt a little bit of that pressure because I felt I'm still learning. I'm still growing. I also saw the positive side of what I could do and how I could get involved in AIDS activism and the things that were important in my time, growing up as a teenager. South Africa, apartheid, bringing those walls down. It was something we were able to bring to the world's attention through hip-hop, through music. My generation of hip-hop spoke a lot about social issues, if there was something that needed to be talked about. So there was a lot of upside to that fame.

Would you describe yourself as an ambitious person?

I would describe myself as an ambitious person. I was raised to go to college. I was the daughter of a high school teacher, and education was very important in my house. You had to get an education. You had to hit the books. It was tough because I dropped out of college to pursue music. But I skipped first grade. So I made a deal with my mom. Since I had a year to blow in my mind, I said I would take a year off from college and put everything I had into making my music career a success. If it was successful in that amount of time, then I would stick with it. If not, I would go back to college. So we made that deal, and I never had to return. I wish I could have. She was happy, but she still wanted me to get a degree, and I wish I had. Everything worked out. I went to the college of life.

Your name is now a brand, but do you ever regret not using your given name because you were so young when you chose it?

I actually don't regret it. If anything, I'm kind of glad I did create this sort of persona. It was part of how I visualized myself and something I wanted to portray. I believed the queen part was important because I felt like all women are queens and should be treated as such. I saw a lot of misogyny and chauvinism growing up. I guess I was a feminist back then, and I didn't know it. I didn't really know about feminism, but I did know that women should get the same pay as the guys for the same job. I watched my mom work really hard and my dad work really hard. I felt like things should be balanced. To me, it was an attitude. Calling myself "Queen" would help me grow into those shoes. Queen Latifah, I never thought people would call me the whole name for some reason. My nickname was Latifah. Everybody called me that already. I kind of stuck the Queen on at the last minute when it was time for me to sign a recording contract.

Being a celebrity and now interviewing celebrities, has that helped you in your approach?

I think I've had to adjust to being forward. I'm not really a forward person in front of the cameras with other people. I know what it is to sort of have a private life and then have a public life — what we do professionally, it just comes along with that. So between my producer and I, we ask the questions we need to ask. If anything, I can rephrase those or put them in a way that is always respectful to my guests because I have been on that side of the couch. I wish to remain respectful and yet curious at the same time. I find when you create a safe environment, I am more inclined to open up. I wanted to create that same environment for guests on the show. Some of them I know or I am friends with, so I just wanted to create a comfortable, safe space and allow them to have at it.

I know your life has had its share of challenges, so what do you employ to keep moving forward and stay grateful?

I have my family and my friends around me who have been around me forever. They know me like the back of their hand. I can be me. I don't always have to have the camera on. I don't have to fill up a huge void all the time inside because

I can't be myself. I am going home right now to see my mom and my cousin and do regular things. Take out the garbage and make sure the bed is made and everything is cool, you know? I am a normal person. Also I really have a faith in God. I really believe in God. I pray when I am confused or anxious. I kind of just pray it all away. I get this peace and joy. I just kind of know I have somebody on my side who is looking out for me even perhaps when I didn't even know I needed to be looked after, watched after, in a certain way. I just know I am not here by chance. I am here for some purpose, for some reason. I try to be optimistic and positive and when it hurts, ouch (laughs). It's OK to acknowledge your feelings, but there are a lot of things to be thankful for, grateful for and I feel that. I'm just a happy person overall. People try to steal my joy, but I am generally a happy person who wants to enjoy life, live it to the fullest and rock out.



Singer/actress Queen Latifah recently marked the 100th episode of her self-titled daytime talk show.

Don Holtz/Participant Media with CBS

BUSINESS/WEATHER

Economists blame winter for lag

By MARTIN CRUTSINGER
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — When the weather warms up, so, too, will the U.S. economy.

That, at least, is the prevailing view of economists, who shrugged off a government report Friday that the economy was weaker last quarter than first thought.

Severe winter weather is probably slowing growth again this quarter. But as the chill and snow fade into memory, long-delayed spending by consumers and businesses could invigorate the economy starting in spring.

"Weather is having an impact on a lot of the data," said Doug Handler, chief economist at IHS Global Insight. "We will likely see a boost from pent-up demand in coming weeks."

In the view of most analysts, the snowstorms and extreme cold have exerted a harmful but only temporary effect on the economy.

That belief helps explain why Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen signaled this week that the Fed will likely continue reducing its stimulus for the economy throughout 2014.

The Commerce Department said Friday that the economy grew at a 2.4 percent annual rate last quarter, in part because consumers didn't spend as much as initially estimated. Initially, Commerce had estimated that the economy expanded at a 3.2 percent rate in the October-December quarter.

One reason the government initially overestimated growth for last quarter was that it didn't fully take account of how much bad weather would dampen spending on long-lasting goods such as autos.

Last quarter's increase in the gross domestic product — the economy's total output of goods and services — was the weakest showing since the first quarter of

last year. And it was down sharply from a 4.1 percent growth rate in the third quarter.

Economists had long expected growth to slow in the final quarter of 2013 and the first quarter this year compared with the third quarter of last year. In part, that's because GDP growth during last year's third quarter was fueled by an unsustainable buildup in company stockpiles that would need to be worked down.

But analysts said the slowdown has been magnified by a succession of winter storms that have disrupted economic activity — from forcing temporary closings of Macy's and other department stores to depressing sales at McDonald's restaurants. Home Depot Inc. said it lost \$100 million from bad weather in January.

The damage from consumer spending has been especially acute because it accounts for about 70 percent of economic activity. Economists foresee further

spending weakness in the first three months of this year largely because of the weather.

"Due to Mother Nature, quarter one is not going to be anything worth writing home about," Jennifer Lee, senior economist at BMO Capital Markets, wrote in a research note. "The rebound ... and all of that pent-up demand won't show up until the second quarter."

MARKET WATCH

Feb. 28, 2014

Dow Jones Industrials	+49.06
	16,321.71
Nasdaq composite	-10.81
	4,308.12
Standard & Poor's 500	+5.16
	1,859.45
Russell 2000	-4.92
	1,183.03

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (March 2)	\$1.4168
Dollar buys (March 2)	€0.7058
British pound (March 2)	\$1.71
Japanese yen (March 2)	100.00
South Korean won (March 2)	1,039.00

Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3770
British pound	\$1.6757
Canada (dollar)	1.1066
China (Yuan)	6.1453
Denmark (Krone)	6.5596
Egypt (Pound)	6.9630
Euro	\$1.3823/7234
Hong Kong (dollar)	7.6100
Hungary (Forint)	224.06
Israel (Sheqel)	3.4877
Japan (Yen)	101.81
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.2816
Norway (Krone)	5.9949
Philippines (Peso)	44.64
Poland (Zloty)	3.201
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7504
Singapore (dollar)	1.2677
South Korea (Won)	1,071.63
Switzerland (Franc)	0.8785
Taiwan (dollar)	32.51
Turkey (Lira)	2.073

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., exchange rates for British pounds, German marks, which with your local military banking facility, commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	3.25
Discount rate	4.75
Federal funds market rate	0.07
3-month bill	0.05
30-year bond	3.59

WEATHER OUTLOOK



Sunday's US temperatures

City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr
Able, Texas	38	18	Cldy	Chattanooga	68	41	Cldy	Fort Wayne	20	5	Snow	Louisville	44	18	Rain
Akron, Ohio	24	8	Snow	Cheyenne	22	15	Cldy	Fresno	67	49	Cldy	Lubbock	45	16	Cldy
Albany, N.Y.	25	8	Snow	Chicago	21	2	Cldy	Goodland	12	2	Snow	Macon	73	52	Cir
Albuquerque	58	36	Cldy	Cleveland	21	8	Snow	Grand Rapids	15	5	Cldy	Madison	11	-10	Cldy
Allentown, Pa.	35	20	Snow	Colorado Springs	33	20	Cldy	Greensboro, N.C.	0	-8	Cir	Memphis	51	20	Rain
Anchorage	37	22	PCldy	Columbia, S.C.	72	52	PCldy	Green Bay	8	-11	Cir	Miami Beach	81	68	Cir
Ashville	65	45	PCldy	Columbus, Ga.	74	53	Cir	Honolulu	79	66	Rain	Midland-Odessa	59	20	Rain
Atlanta	71	49	PCldy	Columbus, Ohio	27	14	Snow	Houston	77	36	Rain	Mobile	16	-1	Cldy
Atlantic City	49	28	Cldy	Concord, N.H.	29	14	Cldy	Hartford	33	15	Snow	Mpls-St Paul	1	-15	Cir
Austin	71	29	Rain	Corpus Christi	80	44	Rain	Helena	7	6	Cir	Missoula	13	11	Snow
Baltimore	52	27	Cldy	Dallas-Ft. Worth	44	19	Rain	Honolulu	79	66	Rain	Mt Pleasant	73	60	Cir
Baton Rouge	76	52	Cldy	Dayton	24	11	Snow	Houston	77	36	Rain	Montgomery	77	54	PCldy
Birmingham	74	47	Cldy	Daytona Beach	78	58	PCldy	Huntsville	71	42	Cldy	Nashville	59	26	Rain
Bismarck	5	-12	Cir	Denver	34	21	Cldy	Indianapolis	23	9	Snow	New Orleans	75	60	Cldy
Boise	55	40	Rain	Des Moines	0	-13	Cir	Jacksonville	74	39	Snow	New York City	37	19	Snow
Boston	35	17	Snow	Detroit	18	5	Snow	Juneau	32	12	Cir	Newark	38	20	Snow
Bridgeport	35	19	Snow	Duluth	3	-21	Cir	Kansas City	6	-7	Snow	Norfolk, Va.	65	42	PCldy
Brownsville	83	60	Cir	El Paso	66	45	PCldy	Key West	42	26	Rain	North Platte	6	-7	Snow
Buffalo	18	8	Snow	Elk River	17	7	Snow	Knoxville	64	40	Cldy	Omaha	2	-12	Cir
Burlington, Vt.	20	2	Cldy	Evanston	56	48	Rain	Lake Charles	75	46	Cldy	Orlando	81	60	Cir
Caribou, Maine	17	-9	PCldy	Fairbanks	22	-6	PCldy	Lansing	14	2	Cldy	Pasadena	35	18	Cldy
Casper	11	11	Cldy	Fargo	-7	-17	Cir	Las Vegas	63	48	Cldy	Pendleton	37	34	Cldy
Charleston, S.C.	73	54	PCldy	Flagstaff	42	23	Cldy	Lincoln	4	-11	Cir	Philadelphia	45	24	Rain
Charlotte, W.Va.	44	23	PCldy	Flint	13	-3	Snow	Little Rock	60	21	Rain	Phoenix	70	53	Cldy
Charlotte, N.C.	68	52	PCldy	Fort Smith	38	18	Rain	Los Angeles	63	55	Cldy	Pittsburgh	30	19	Snow

National temperature extremes
Hi: Fr., 89, Terrell County, Texas; Kingsville Naval Air Station, Texas; Lo: Fr., -41, Newberry City, Mich.

STARS AND STRIPES

Max D. Lederer Jr., Publisher
 Richard Braun, General Manager, Europe
 John Panasiwicz, General Manager, Pacific
 Lt. Col. Jeff Myer, Europe commander
 Lt. Col. Brian Porter, Pacific commander

EDITORIAL

Terry Leonard, Editorial Director
 leonard.terry@stripes.com

Sam Amrhein, Deputy Managing Editor
 amrhein.sam@stripes.com

Tina Croley, Enterprise Editor
 croley.tina@stripes.com

BUREAU STAFF

Europe/Mideast

Teddie Weyr, News Editor Europe/Mideast
 weyr.teddie@stripes.com;
 +49(0)631.3615.9310, cell
 +49(0)173.315.1881; DSN (314)583.9310

Pacific

Paul Alexander, News Editor Pacific
 alexander.paul@stripes.com
 +81-3 6385.5377; cell (080)5883.1673
 DSN (315)225.5377

Washington

Patrick Dickson, Washington Bureau Chief
 dickson.patrick@stripes.com
 (+1)(703)693.6957; DSN (312)223.6957
 Brian Bowers, Assistant Managing Editor, News
 bowers.brian@stripes.com
 Joe Gromelski, Assistant Managing Editor, Web
 gromelski.joe@stripes.com
 Sean Moores, Assistant Managing Editor,
 Sports, Features and Graphics
 moores.sean@stripes.com

CONTACT US

Washington

tel: (+1)202.761.0900; DSN (312)763.0900;
 fax: (+1)202.761.0890
 529 14th Street NW, Suite 350, Washington, DC
 20045-1301

Reader letters

letters@stripes.com

Additional contacts

stripes.com/contactus

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OPINION

The two faces of Vladimir Putin

By MARTIN SCHRAM

McClatchy-Tribune News Service

Nighttime skies glowed fiery orange at the edges of Vladimir Putin's Russia, just days ago — and the whole world was watching.

Last Sunday, the world watched the sky above Sochi, on Russia's Black Sea border, 845 miles from Moscow.

Orange starbursts of fireworks celebrated the triumphant end of the 2014 Winter Olympics that Russia's president had spent so lavishly to host. The Kremlin's seldom-smiling leader desperately wanted to show the world (see also: the global economy) the new super-friendly face and open-arms partnership potential of Putin's New Russia.

Soon afterward, the world also watched the sky above Kiev, the Ukraine capital just 470 miles west of Moscow:

Menacing orange flames leaped skyward from fires surrounding thousands of anti-government activists who occupied the city's famous Independence Square.

Protesters were demanding the removal of President Viktor Yanukovich, who had spurned an economic partnership with the European Union to become the economic ally (see also: acolyte) of Putin's Russia. Putin's government urged Ukraine's president to crack down, get tougher and stop being pushed around by the protesters.

For days a world of television and online viewers flipped back and forth between live simulcasts of the two very different epic battles for supremacy. We watched glorious battles for Olympic supremacy in Sochi and horrific battles for governmental supremacy in Kiev.

The world saw the two very different, but very real, faces of Putin. They saw the face of a new thoroughly modern Putin, looking quite pleased in the stadium beneath Sochi's glowing orange sky.

If the Olympics had been the only measure of Putin's accomplishment, the Russian strongman surely would have been glowing on the inside, as well.

But the world had also seen the other face of Russia's Putin. We saw in Kiev the face that was molded long ago, during Putin's days in the Soviet KGB.

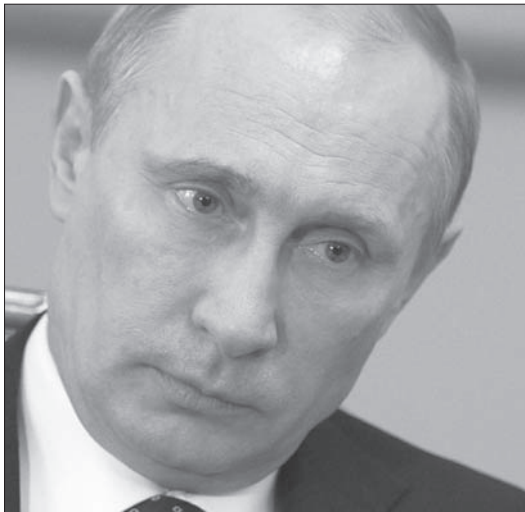
World viewers recognized the face of the old Putin as they watched as Yanukovich's thugs did just what Putin's prime minister Dmitry Medvedev had urged. The government got tough, fired rifles into the crowd of militant protesters — and killed 100 protesters in one day.

That was too much for Ukraine's parliament; too much, even, for Ukraine's police. Parliament yanked its support from Yanukovich; the police vanished from the square.

Overnight Putin's Ukrainian marionette had vanished from the presidential palace and from his private estate on which he'd spent the people's money lavishly while his country went broke. He'd reportedly tried to flee to — can you guess? — yes, Russia. But his former border guards blocked his plane from taking off.

If the only scenes the world had seen last week were the visuals from Sochi, the movers and shakers of the global economy might have concluded that Russia's president probably had miraculously transformed his long-troubled nation. Sochi's orange firework sky glowed like a neon sign saying Putin's New Russia was now open for business.

But the world saw the orange sky over Kiev and the red pavement of its Independence Square. And those scenes have indelibly colored the world's portrait of Putin. The world's view of Putin became starkly clear last week. On Tuesday, Putin sent troops to conduct a military exercise



RIA-Novosti Presidential Press Service/AP

Russian President Vladimir Putin listens during working meetings at the Novo-Ogarovo residence outside Moscow on Friday.



DAVID GOLDMAN/AP

Putin acknowledges the applause of the crowd as he is introduced at the closing ceremony of the 2014 Winter Olympics on Feb. 23 in Sochi, Russia.

near Russia's Ukraine border. Now all the planet sees him as a man with wide-open arms, but tightly clenched fists.

The only way for Putin to change the way the world pictures him is to change the face of his policies around the globe. He must start by ending his support for one of the planet's most evil mass murderers of his own people — Syria's despot Bashar al-Assad. But the world's leaders and citizens now know not to hold their breath waiting for Putin to do the right thing on anything.

It was the lesson the world learned last month a month that marked the best of times and the worst of times for Vladimir Putin. It was a Dickens of a week for Rus-

sia's leader.

But the month may have served as a much needed wake-up call for all those dreaming radicals around the planet. Especially so many ordinary citizens in uncertain places such as Venezuela and other Latin American countries, where people are still trying to find their own new paths to prosperity.

Putin has reached out hopefully to them in the past.

But if they were watching last week's worldwide simulcasts, they now know Putin will never be their answer.

Martin Schram is an op-ed columnist for McClatchy-Tribune.

OPINION

Obama's unkept-promises scorecard is full

By KAREN J. GREENBERG

In Barack Obama's first weeks in office, in a series of executive orders and public statements, the new president and former professor of constitutional law promised to make sweeping changes in the way government operated in a number of specific areas. But has he kept his pledges?

Let's consider four of them:

Ending torture: On his first day in office, Obama ordered an end to the practice of torture, or as the George W. Bush administration preferred to call it, "enhanced interrogation techniques." In the president's words, "effective immediately" individuals in U.S. custody "shall not be subjected to any interrogation technique or approach, or any treatment related to interrogation, that is not authorized by and listed in the Army Field Manual."

Of the four promises, this is the one the president has come closest to keeping. He has, among other things, shut down the global network of "black sites," or secret prison facilities established by the Bush administration. And, despite some questionable practices, such as the force-feeding of detainees at Guantanamo, the ban on torture has held into the sixth year of Obama's presidency.

Using Guantanamo: On his first day in office, Obama also pledged to close the infamous Guantanamo Bay detention facility — home at the time to 245 detainees — within a year. That proved politically impossible. As of January, 155 detainees remained at the prison, including 77 who had been cleared for release. But the president insists he is still trying. In his State of the Union address last month, he urged legislative action: "This needs to be the year Congress lifts the remaining restrictions on detainee transfers and we close the prison at Guantanamo Bay."

But even if the president is successful, there's a catch: He has made it clear that he wants to close Guantanamo only in the most technical sense. While he would like to empty the facility, he is quite prepared to keep the strikingly un-American Guantanamo system of indefinite deten-

The president's tenure has hardly been a time of increased transparency.

tion itself intact, allowing some suspects in Washington's war on terrorism to be held indefinitely without charges or trial if they are considered a risk to national security.

In other words, Obama's second promise may eventually be kept — though on a slower schedule — only by redefining what closing Guantanamo means.

Ending unnecessary secrecy: Another goal Obama identified on his first day in office as key to his presidency was establishing a "sunshine" administration. He pledged to end the excessive secrecy of the Bush administration and put more information in the public arena.

Obama's self-professed aim was to restore trust between the people and their government by pledging to promote accountability and provide information for citizens about what their government is doing." Toward that end, the president quickly released a number of previously classified documents from the Bush years on torture policy.

But that, as it happens, was the end of the sunshine. In the five years since, little of note has occurred in the name of transparency and much, including a war against whistle-blowers, has been pursued in the name of secrecy. The administration has also, even after Edward Snowden's devastating revelations, continued for the most part to defend the National Security Agency's massive, secret, warrantless surveillance.

Nor, of course, has secrecy been limited to the NSA. One reason for the slow progress in processing Guantanamo detainees has been the CIA's obsessive anxiety that still-classified material might come out in court.

And then there is the drone program. The president has insisted that Justice Department documents offering "legal" authorization for White House-ordered



drone assassinations of suspects, including American citizens, must remain classified, even as administration officials leak information that they think justifies the program.

The president's tenure has hardly been a time of increased transparency.

An end to war without limits: At the outset of Obama's presidency, the administration downplayed the notion of a borderless battlefield that encompassed the globe. It also threw on the trash heap of history the Bush administration's term "global war on terror."

In his recent State of the Union address, the president stated his continued aversion to the notion that Washington should pursue an unlimited war. He was speaking by now not just about the geography of the boundless battlefield but of the very idea of warfare without an end point. "America," he counseled, "must move off a permanent war footing."

But despite the president's insistence on placing limits on war, and on the defense budget, his brand of warfare has helped lay the basis for a permanent state of

global warfare via "low footprint" drone campaigns and special forces operations aimed at an ever-morphing enemy usually identified as some form of al-Qaida. According to Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., the Obama administration has killed 4,700 individuals in numerous countries, including Pakistan, Yemen and Somalia. Obama has successfully embedded the process of drone killings into the executive branch in such a way that any future president will inherit it, along with the White House "kill list" and its "terror Tuesday" meetings. Unbounded global war is now part of what it means to be president.

Five years into his presidency, it's clear Obama has failed to keep promises he claimed were at the heart of his approach to governance. We expected better.

Karen J. Greenberg, director of the Center on National Security at Fordham University School of Law, is the author of "The Least Worst Place: Guantanamo's First 100 Days." Kevin Garnett, a legal research fellow at the center, contributed research for this column. This column, which first appeared in the Los Angeles Times, was adapted from a longer version at tomdispatch.com.

The 'right' to make our moral choices — and yours

By DUSTY NIX

Columbus (Ga.) Ledger-Enquirer

You're at the pharmacy to pick up your diabetes medication. The pharmacist takes a look at you and at your prescription, and refuses to fill it. Why? Is it expired, or maybe you're out of refills?

No, the prescription is valid and current. But the pharmacist has decided that your Type II diabetes is getting worse. You brought on yourself and, because of his deeply held moral and religious objection to the sin of gluttony, he doesn't have to serve you.

(At this point, the HIV-positive guy in line behind you is getting nervous.)

Such a scenario hasn't played out anywhere, as far as I know. But it exemplifies the fallacies, both logical and ethical, of some of these laws based on pick-and-choose morality.

Alabama wanted to allow druggists to refuse the so-called "morning after" pill on the basis of a moral objection to abortion (a tenuous connection, to put it diplomatically). And of course there's the brouhaha about whether people or organizations affiliated with religions that don't condone birth control should have to provide contraception coverage to employees — re-

I'm intrigued by the selective morality of politics, and why so many of us seem to be such suckers for it.

gardless, of course, of the employees' own moral and religious convictions.

(The funniest episode in the whole mindless "Obamacare" muddle was the revelation that Georgia's employee health plan had included contraception coverage for years. It became a "moral" issue only when the name Obama was attached to it, which speaks volumes about the intellectual honesty and ethical consistency of contemporary Georgia politics.)

Then there's a "religious freedom" measure in Georgia that would give students more leeway to lead prayers and religious discussions in class and at public events. Gee, what could go wrong there?

But the Kansas bill that would let just about anybody refuse to provide products or services for homosexuals on the basis of "deeply held moral or religious convictions" has to be the topper, at least until something stupider surfaces. (And rest assured it will — most likely in Kansas or Texas, but Georgia and Alabama are always strong contenders.)

I'm intrigued by the selective morality of politics, and why so many of us seem to be such suckers for it. And it's especially intriguing to see how often these efforts to punish or exclude or marginalize particular groups are couched in the language of "rights" and "freedom" and "liberty."

Contemporary pols and pundits didn't invent that trick, of course; just read the news from 50 and 60 years ago. To segregationists, the idea of American citizens of color being protected by the same constitutional rights white Americans took for granted was an imminent threat to freedom, liberty and the Constitution itself. Try to untangle that snarl of reasoning.

The better angel of my nature, the one in white hanging over one shoulder, just wants everything to be fair and nonconfrontational. The little devil over my other shoulder (think "Animal House") wants to see what happens when a Buddhist or Hindu kid asks to lead the prayer before a football game or a religious discussion in school. That malicious imp wants to watch

the meltdown if a Muslim grocery clerk refuses to ring up a pork roast.

A reader offered an interesting perspective on some of these Protect Me From What Offends Me laws: If he has a deeply held moral and religious objection to war, why must he pay federal taxes that go mostly to the Pentagon?

Of course, such an exemption is as unworkable as the reader's point is irrefutable.

So we pick and choose our stands (or our politicians' pick them for us) based on the hatreds, fears and sanctimonies of the moment, and tell ourselves that's morality.

I've been told more than once, in relation to my own religious beliefs, that I can't pick and choose which parts of the Bible to embrace. Of course, the people saying this are generally the ones who invoke Leviticus to condemn homosexuals. The same scripture's condemnations of shaving, selfish, tattoos, mixing crops and blending fibers apparently don't trouble their consciences, their diets or their clothing choices.

I guess you just have to pick and choose what you can and what you can't pick and choose. I know that doesn't make sense. It also doesn't make good law.

Dusty Nix is the editorial-page editor of the Columbus Ledger-Enquirer.

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erine Kirk	75-71-71-217	+1
y Shin	72-72-73-217	+1
any Lincicome	71-71-75-217	+1

SPORTS BRIEFS

Keselowski earns pole position at Phoenix

The Associated Press

AVONDALE, Ariz. — A few drivers, like Brad Keselowski and Joey Logano, raced onto the track to get in their qualifying sessions. Others waited, some nearly 10 minutes, before heading out for the first time.

There were long stretches with almost no activity followed by mad scrambles to get runs in before time ran out. Cars raced past each other at close to a 100 mph difference.

No doubt, this first round of NASCAR's new knockout qualifying was a little strange and will take some getting used to.

Brad Keselowski earned the first Sprint Cup pole under NASCAR's new format, edging Joey Logano with a track-record top speed of 139.384 mph at Phoenix International Raceway on Friday.

"It's a lot more nerve-racking," Keselowski said. "Usually a pretty good rule of thumb is that if it's more nerve-racking for the drivers, it's a lot more fun for our fans and partners and all those things, and that's a good thing. I'm more interested in feedback from our fans to see if they liked it."

Keselowski was one of the first drivers to go out in the first session and finished behind Logano. He trumped his teammate in the shorter, second session to earn his fourth career pole and a spot on the front row for Sunday's 312-mile race.

Jamie McMurray qualified third, defending Sprint Cup champion Jimmie Johnson was fourth and Daytona 500 champion Dale Earnhardt Jr. will start fifth, next to Greg Biffle.

McIlroy soars; Woods narrowly misses the cut

PALM BEACH GARDENS, Florida — Rory McIlroy bounced back from a rough start Friday for a 4-under 66 that gave him a one-shot lead in the Honda Classic.

Tiger Woods had to scramble to



RICK SCUTER/AP

Brad Keselowski gives a thumbs-up signal Friday after winning the pole position for Sunday's NASCAR Sprint Cup Series race in Avondale, Ariz. Keselowski earned the pole in the new knockout qualifying.

narrowly make the cut.

McIlroy made six birdies in a 10-hole stretch and looked good from tee-to-green at PGA National to take the lead into the weekend of a PGA Tour event for the first time in 18 months.

McIlroy was at 11-under 129. Brendon de Jonge was tied for the lead until making bogey on his final hole for a 64. He was one behind.

Woods hit only two greens in regulation on the back nine of PGA National. His only birdie was on the 13th when he chipped in. He shot 69 to make the cut on the number.

■ Karrie Webb broke out of a slump with three key birdies on the back nine Saturday to hold

onto a one-stroke lead after the third round of the HSBC Women's Champions in Singapore.

Webb, the 2011 champion, has led every round this week. She shot a 70 to move to 11-under 205 overall.

The veteran Australian will play against another former champion in the lead group on Sunday — 2012 winner Angela Stanford.

The American matched Webb birdie-for-birdie over the final five holes to shoot a 69.

Spain's Azahara Munoz fired an eagle and four birdies for a 5-under 67, the low round of the day, to surge into a third-place tie with Taiwan's Teresa Lu at 8-under 208.

Canada's Erik Guay wins World Cup downhill

KVITFJELL, Norway — Canada's Erik Guay won the fifth World Cup race of his career on one of his best courses to clinch his second downhill win this season, finishing ahead of Frenchman Johan Clarey and Olympic champion Matthias Mayer of Austria in the Norwegian resort of Kvitfjell.

It was the 32-year-old Guay's third career downhill win. He also won downhill earlier this season at the Italian resort of Val Gardena, where the 33-year-old Clarey was third.

Two of Guay's career five wins

and four of his 22 podiums have been in Kvitfjell, where there is another super-G scheduled for Sunday. He won that race here four years ago.

Conditions were overcast and a little foggy but unlike Friday's downhill the rain stayed away. Guay had a time of 1 minute, 22.17 seconds to put him .35 ahead of Clarey — who secured a third career podium — and .57 quicker than the 23-year-old Mayer, who celebrated his first career podium in World Cup downhill and only his third overall.

American Travis Ganong, who was third on Friday, narrowly missed out on another podium, finishing .62 back in fourth spot.

In other skiing news: ■ The women's World Cup downhill race in Crans Montana, Switzerland, has been canceled because of bad weather.

Overnight snow and thick fog had already seen the start time put back several times on Saturday and race organizers decided to cancel it at 1:30 local time.

Moss' daughter scores 63 points in D-III game

Sidney Moss has set the women's Division III scoring record with 63 points for Thomas More College in a semifinal victory at the Presidents' Athletic Conference tournament.

The daughter of former NFL star Randy Moss broke Ann Gilbert's mark of 61 points Friday night when she made two free throws with 18 seconds remaining in the Saints' 106-88 win over Waynesburg in Crestview Hills, Ky. Thomas More improved to 27-0 and advanced to Saturday's championship game against Washington & Jefferson College.

Gilbert scored 61 points for Oberlin College against Allegheny College on Feb. 6, 1991.

Cindy Brown holds the Division I record with 60 points for Long Beach State against San Jose State on Feb. 16, 1987.

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NHL

Roundup

Enroth makes 36 saves, leads Sabres by Sharks

The Associated Press

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Jonas Enroth made 36 saves as the Buffalo Sabres beat the San Jose Sharks 4-2 on Friday night, a few hours after they traded goalie Ryan Miller and captain Steve Ott.

Cody Hodgson, Brian Flynn, Matt Moulson and Tyler Myers scored for Buffalo, while Enroth played well in the absence of Miller, who was dealt to St. Louis along with Ott before warmups.

James Sheppard and Patrick Marleau scored for San Jose.

The win gave Buffalo three straight wins for the first time since last April.

The Sabres opened the scoring on a power-play goal 10:59 into the first period, as Antti Niemi couldn't hold on to Hodgson's wrist shot. It was Hodgson's 15th goal and his first since Jan. 28.

Enroth made a glove save of Matt Irwin's slap shot through the challenge he and Steve Ott made to play to keep Buffalo ahead. He made another strong glove save 7:22 into the second period when Marleau was left uncovered in the slot.

Moments later, Myers beat Niemi off a rush up the right side,

but his shot clanked off the cross bar.

After another pair of saves, Enroth was beaten when Sheppard forced a puck between the goaltender's legs after a shot rebounded off the end boards.

The Sharks finished the second period with a 31-13 advantage in shots on goal.

Buffalo restored its lead 4:33 into the third when Zengus Girgensons won a faceoff back to Flynn, whose wrist shot beat Niemi.

The Sabres doubled their advantage four minutes later when Myers jumped into the play from the right point to feed Moulson in the slot, who scored over Niemi's shoulder.

Marleau brought the Sharks within one with a one-timer with 1:15 left in regulation. Joe Thornton picked up his 50th assist of the season on the goal.

Myers added an empty-net goal with 21 seconds left to give him a goal and two assists on the night.

Avalanche 4, Coyotes 2: Gabriel Landeskog had a goal and two assists, and Paul Stastny had a goal and an assist as host Colorado beat Phoenix.

Semyon Varlamov stopped 40

shots in his first game after playing for Russia in the Olympics, and P.A. Parenteau and Nate Guenin also scored for Colorado, which bounced back from losing a two-goal lead in a loss to Los Angeles on Wednesday.

Wild 2, Canucks 1 (SO): Justin Fontaine's goal in the seventh round of the shootout gave visiting Minnesota a win over Vancouver.

Fontaine went wide on Eddie Lack and slid the puck under the Vancouver goalie. Darcy Kuemper preserved the win by denying Vancouver's final shooter, David Booth, as he attempted a spin-orama shot.

Ducks 1, Blues 0: Jonas Hiller made 18 saves in his fifth shutout of the season and Andrew Cogliano scored in the opening minutes as NHL-leading Anaheim returned from its Olympic break with a victory over visiting St. Louis.

Hiller came back strong from the break after posting two shutouts for Switzerland in Sochi, earning his 21st career shutout. Cogliano's early goal stood up in a hard-hitting, choppy game between two of the NHL's best teams.



GARY WIEPERT/AP

San Jose defenseman Matt Irwin, front, and goaltender Antti Niemi eye the puck Friday's game against Buffalo in Buffalo, N.Y.

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division		GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Boston	58	37	16	5	7	79	180	130
Montreal	61	33	21	7	7	73	155	149
Tampa Bay	59	31	17	5	7	71	171	148
Florida	61	32	22	7	1	71	182	167
Detroit	60	22	30	10	12	68	152	165
Ottawa	60	26	23	11	6	63	170	197
Carolina	59	22	30	7	1	51	143	188
Buffalo	60	18	34	8	4	44	122	180
Metropolitan Division		GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Pittsburgh	60	33	24	6	8	84	191	144
N.Y. Rangers	60	33	24	6	8	84	195	147
Philadelphia	60	30	24	6	6	86	165	174
Washington	60	28	23	9	5	65	176	179
Calgary	59	29	25	5	5	63	172	166
New Jersey	60	25	22	13	3	63	140	148
Carolina	59	26	24	9	1	61	147	165
N.Y. Islanders	61	23	30	8	24	54	169	204

Sabres 4, Sharks 2

San Jose 1 0 1-2
Buffalo 1 0 3-4
First Period—1, Buffalo, Hodgson 15 (Myers, Enroth), 10:59 (pp).
Second Period—2, San Jose, Sheppard 2 (Vlasik, Boyle), 9:38.
Third Period—3, Buffalo, Flynn 6 (Girgensons), 4:33, 4, Buffalo, Moulson 17 (Myers, Weber), 7:28, 5, San Jose, Marleau 24 (Thornton, Boyle), 18:45, 6, Buffalo, Myers 8 (D'Agostini), 19:38 (en).
Shots on Goal—San Jose 13-18-7—38, Buffalo 8-5-7—20.
Power-play opportunities—San Jose 0 of 2; Buffalo 1 of 2.
Goals—San Jose, Niemi 29-13-6 (19 shots-2 saves), Buffalo, Enroth 3-12-5 (38-36).
A—19:070 (19,070), T—2:25.

Western Conference

Central Division		GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
St. Louis	59	34	14	6	84	196	137	137
Chicago	61	30	12	14	84	208	165	165
Colorado	60	38	17	5	81	182	161	161
Minnesota	61	31	7	23	73	150	148	148
Dallas	59	28	21	10	66	168	165	165
Winnipeg	61	26	6	26	64	171	177	177
Nashville	60	26	24	10	62	149	182	182
Pacific Division		GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Anaheim	61	38	17	5	89	197	147	147
San Jose	61	38	17	6	82	184	149	149
Los Angeles	61	31	22	6	72	147	133	133
Vancouver	62	28	24	10	66	148	162	162
Phoenix	60	27	22	11	65	167	176	176
Calgary	59	29	20	7	61	177	177	177
Edmonton	61	20	34	4	47	153	202	202

Note: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss.

Friday's games
 Minnesota 2, Vancouver 1, 50
 Buffalo 4, San Jose 2
 Colorado 4, Phoenix 2
 Anaheim 1, St. Louis 0

Saturday's games
 Washington at Boston
 New Jersey at N.Y. Islanders
 N.Y. Rangers at Philadelphia
 Florida at Columbus

Philadelphia at Washington
 Tampa Bay at Dallas
 Carolina at Los Angeles

Toronto at Montreal
 Pittsburgh at Chicago, IL
 Calgary at Edmonton

Sunday's games
 Philadelphia at Washington
 San Jose at New Jersey
 Carolina at N.Y. Islanders

Ottawa vs. Vancouver at Vancouver, BC
 Boston at N.Y. Rangers
 Tampa Bay at Colorado
 St. Louis at Phoenix
 Carolina at Anaheim

Friday

Ducks 1, Blues 0		GP	G	A	Pts
St. Louis	Anaheim	1	0	0	0-0
Phil Kessel, Tor	3:19	0	0	0-1	
(Kovalev, Fowler), 3:39					
Shots on goal —St. Louis 6-8-4-18					
Anaheim 4-11-4-19					
Power-play opportunities —St. Louis 0 of 3; Anaheim 0 of 3.					
Goals —St. Louis, Elliott 15-5-2 (19 shots-2 saves), Anaheim, Hiller 26-9-4 (18-18).					
A —17:369 (17,174), T—2:21.					

Avalanche 4, Coyotes 2

Colorado 1 0 3-4
Phoenix 1 0 0-1
First Period—1, Phoenix, Doan 16 (Bovdiker, Ekman-Larsen), 12:47 (pp).
Second Period—2, Colorado, Parenteau 12 (Duchene, O'Brien), 15:38 (pp).
Third Period—3, Colorado, Guenin 1 (Landeskog, Stastny), 2:48, 4, Colorado, Stastny 18 (Landeskog, MacKinnon), 6:12, 5, Phoenix, Doan 17 (Vande, Ekman-Larsen), 12:58 (pp), 6, Colorado, Landeskog 19 (MacKinnon, Barrie), 16:49 (pp).
Shots on Goal—Phoenix 13-10-19—42, Colorado 10-10-13—33.
Power-play opportunities—Phoenix 2 of 5; Colorado 2 of 4.
Goals—Phoenix, Greiss 7-5-1 (33 shots-2 saves), Colorado, Varlamov 29-11-5 (42-40).
A—17:648 (18,007), T—2:27.

Wild 2, Canucks 1 (SO)

Minnesota 1 0 0-2
Vancouver 1 0 0-1
First Period—1, Vancouver, Kesler 21 (Higgins), 5:18 (sh), 2, Minnesota, Parise 20 (Pominville, Hagg), 14:12 (pp).
Shootout—Minnesota 1 (Parise, NG, Coyle NG, Pominville NG, Granlund NG, Niederreiter NG, Heatley NG, Fortaine G), Vancouver 0 (Kassian NG, Burrows NG, Higgins NG, Schroeder NG, 16, NG, Kesler NG, Booth NG).
Shots on Goal—Minnesota 13-6-31—23, Vancouver 10-11-9-31.
Power-play opportunities—Minnesota 1 of 3; Vancouver 0 of 2.
Goals—Minnesota, Kuemper 10-3-2 (31 shots-30 saves), Vancouver, Lack 3-8-4 (23-22).
A—18:910 (18,910), T—2:39.

Scoring leaders

Through Feb. 28

	GP	G	A	Pts
Sidney Crosby, Pit	59	29	51	80
Phil Kessel, Tor	61	32	35	67
Ryan Getzlaf, Anh	57	29	38	67
John Tavares, NYI	59	24	42	66
Alex Ovechkin, Was	56	41	22	63
Patrick Kane, Chi	60	27	36	63
Corey Perry, Anh	61	30	30	60
Evgeni Malkin, Pit	48	18	42	60
Kyle Okposo, NYI	60	24	25	59
Nicklas Backstrom, Was	60	12	47	59
Patrick Sharp, Chi	61	28	30	58
Martin St. Louis, TB	59	27	31	58
Joe Thornton, SJ	61	8	50	58
3.tiered with 57 pts				

3 tied with 57 pts.

St. Louis acquires Miller, Ott

By JOHN WAWROW

The Associated Press

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Once the shock and emotions of leaving Buffalo and the Sabres began to wear off, goalie Ryan Miller began looking forward to the challenge he and Steve Ott will face in living up to the St. Louis Blues' expectations.

Sabres no more, Miller and Ott are going from the NHL's worst team to a bona fide Stanley Cup contender after being traded to the Central Division-leading Blues in a five-player, two-draft-pick deal Friday night.

"It's definitely humbling and flattering that they would make that kind of move and bring us in with the intention of giving them some help to push for a Stanley Cup," Miller said. "We're excited for the opportunity here. But also, it's about the responsibility we have to that organization to show up and get up to speed and compete as hard as we can to live up to the trade."

With his hands at times cracking with emotion, Miller spoke at a news conference during the first intermission of the Sabres' 4-2 victory over San Jose. The deal was made about an hour before the game, and marks the first significant move since Tim Murray



PHOTOS BY GARY WIEPERT/AP

Buffalo traded captain Steve Ott, left, and goalie Ryan Miller to St. Louis on Friday for goalie Jaroslav Halak, forward Chris Stewart, prospect William Carrier, a 2015 first-round pick and a 2016 third-round pick. Buffalo has the fewest points of all NHL teams.

took over as Sabres general manager in January.

In exchange for Miller and Ott, their captain, the Sabres acquired goalie Jaroslav Halak, forward Chris Stewart, prospect William Carrier, a 2015 first-round pick and a conditional 2016 third-round pick in a deal reached in advance of the NHL trade deadline on Wednesday.

The move was welcomed by the Blues after a 1-0 loss Friday night to the NHL-leading Anaheim Ducks.

St. Louis' 84 points are tied for the league's second-best total behind Anaheim, but the move shows the Blues are no longer content with regular-season success and early playoff exits.

Murray explained that the pick in 2016 could turn into a first-round pick in this year's draft if the Blues reach the Western Conference finals or Miller re-signs with St. Louis before the draft. The Sabres will also retain a portion of what's left of Miller's \$6.25 million contract this season.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

WAC suspends two players for brawl

By ANNE M. PETERSON
The Associated Press

A wild postgame brawl following a contentious game between Utah Valley and New Mexico State highlighted the risks when fans and players collide.

The Western Athletic Conference suspended New Mexico State junior guard K.C. Ross-Miller for two games and senior forward Renaldo Dixon for one for violating the league's sportsmanship policy following its review of the melee Thursday night in Orem, Utah.

Ross-Miller hurled the ball at Utah Valley's Holton Hunsaker seconds after the Wolverines' 66-61 victory over the Aggies. The ball hit Hunsaker — the son of Utah Valley coach Dick Hunsaker — in the leg. Some of the fans who stormed the court following the victory got caught up in the chaos and punches were thrown.

New Mexico State guard DK Eldridge was in the middle of the scum before he was dragged away by Aggie coaches as order was restored. With the victory, the Wolverines claimed the top spot in the conference standings — their first year in the WAC.

While the brawl was touched off by Ross-Miller's actions, it sparked renewed debate about player and fan interactions, and the dangers posed when fans rush the court. It was one of several incidents involving fans and players or coaches in recent months.

Oklahoma State All-America guard Marcus Smart charged into the stands at Texas Tech on Feb. 8 and shoved a fan who called him a "piece of crap." Smart was suspended for three games and the fan later apologized.

Also in February, Oregon coach Dana Altman expressed concerns about safety after two of his staffers said an Arizona State student spit at them at halftime of a game in Tempe, Ariz. Ducks guard Jason Calliste had a verbal confrontation with at least one student late in the first half.

The NCAA does not have national rules regarding fans rushing the court because conference offices oversee regular-season rules in basketball, including discipline.

The SEC does ban the practice, imposing a \$5,000 fine on the school for the first offense, and as much as \$50,000 for subsequent infractions.

Reggie Minton, deputy executive director of the National Association of Basket-



THE DAILY HERALD, GRANT HINDSLEY/AP

New Mexico State's Daniel Mullings, center left, is involved in a brawl between players and fans who came onto the court when New Mexico State guard K.C. Ross-Miller hurled the ball at Utah Valley's Holton Hunsaker seconds after Utah's Valley's 66-61 overtime victory Thursday in Orem, Utah. The Western Athletic Conference suspended two New Mexico State players Friday.

ball Coaches, said his organization has discussed the issue in the past and it will be taken up again at meetings in April.

"The main concern is for the safety of the visiting players and coaching staff. Rushing the court almost always comes after a key victory or upset by the home team and there are people rushing the court who may or may not understand what sportsmanship is about," Minton said.

"We need to explore ways to eliminate the risk to the players, coaches and staff on the court," he added. "Every school should have a plan in place for end-of-game situations and make sure there is sufficient security and staff available to take control."

The WAC issued its suspensions Friday after reviewing the brawl.

"There obviously is no place in the Western Athletic Conference or intercollegiate athletics as a whole for the unfortunate events that took place at the conclusion of Thursday night's game," WAC Commissioner Jeff Hurd said.

Before the WAC weighed in on additional penalties, New Mexico State coach Marvin Menzies suspended Ross-Miller indefinitely pending the WAC's decision.

"No matter what provoked K.C. what he did was inexcusable and hence the suspension. It is an honor and a privilege to wear an Aggie uniform and a responsibility

comes with that privilege," Menzies said in a statement Friday.

The game between the WAC co-leaders at the UCCU center was attended by a season-high 4,954 fans.

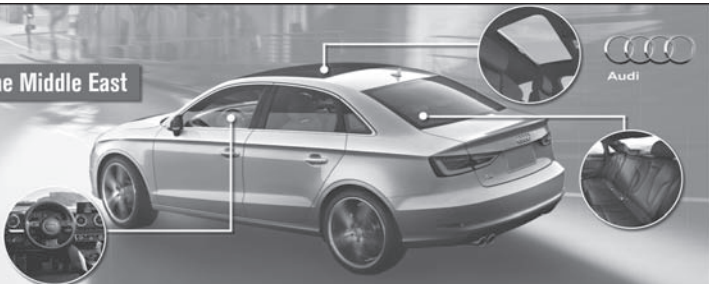
Ross-Miller issued a statement apologizing for his actions.

"I have way more respect for the university, my teammates and coaches to retaliate in such a terrible way," he said. "I know better to let my opponents and emotions get the best of me and I regret doing what I did, not only because it was stupid and selfish, but because of the situation that I have created for my team, coaches and the university."

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NBA



FRANK FRANKLIN II/AP

The Knicks' Carmelo Anthony, left, J.R. Smith, center, and Tyson Chandler watch during the second half of Friday's blowout 126-103 loss to the Golden State Warriors in New York.

Knicks: Time short to turn around season

FROM BACK PAGE

"At this point, we're rolling with the punches, man. I was laughing with somebody and saying it's Murphy's Law," Anthony continued. "Anything that can go wrong is going wrong for us at this point. All that stuff, with all that said, we've still got to play basketball."

Now in his 10th season, Anthony has never missed the playoffs.

If the Knicks don't start playing good basketball, and fast, that streak will end in about six weeks.

"All of these games are very critical," Anthony said. "We've got to approach these games, I don't want to say life or death situation, but it is what it is. These are games that we've got to try to win."



Felton

The Knicks are in 11th place in the Eastern Conference, six games out of the eighth and final postseason spot after a blowout loss to the Golden State Warriors on Friday night. A team that won 54 games last season is on pace to win just 30 this season, a 24-victory difference. If that holds up, it'll be the largest one-year dip in terms of winning percentage that the Knicks have ever endured.

"It has been an up and down year, sure," Woodson said. "I think about it all the time. But there's sometimes that you can't control. You can't control injuries, you can't control J.R.'s suspension at the beginning of the year. It's been a lot. But again, mathematically we're still in the hunt and that's what I'm hanging my hat on."

Calling it an "up and down" year might be a stretch. Woodson's team won its first game, and hasn't had a winning record since. By the start of December, the Knicks were 10 games under .500. They had a five-game winning streak in early January, then a four-game streak later in the month.

In all other games, they're 12-38.

And then the Felton matter simply adds a new challenge, a big one at that.

Hours after Dirk Nowitzki got a buzzer-beater to fall that lifted Dallas past the Knicks on Monday night, Felton was arrested on felony weapons charges. He should be able to be with the Knicks for the rest of the season, considering he's not due in court again until June 2.

Felton was smiling and laughing with teammates as they prepared for their gameday shootaround practice in Miami on Thursday, and has said his personal situation — he's also going through a divorce, and authorities said it was his estranged wife who turned a loaded semi-automatic handgun allegedly owned by Felton into police — will not be a distraction to the team.

Added Woodson: "We're here to support him. ... We can't go back and undo what's been done."

The same sort of thinking applies to the Knicks' season so far. It's why, at least outwardly, Woodson and Anthony still seem to have some hope.

"I just wish our season would have been better," Woodson said. "We can still salvage something out of this season by getting this team in the playoffs. If that happens, then you start, another season and anything is possible."

Curry, Warriors rout New York

Golden State star dazzles MSG crowd

By BRIAN MAHONEY
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Stephen Curry's last Madison Square Garden performance was breathtaking, the most dazzling display of outside shooting ever at the famed arena.

It resulted in a loss, so Curry tried a different tactic Friday night — and ended up making more MSG history.

Curry had 27 points, 11 rebounds and 11 assists in three quarters. Klay Thompson added 25 points, and the Golden State Warriors sent the frustrated New York Knicks to a fifth straight loss with a 126-103 victory.

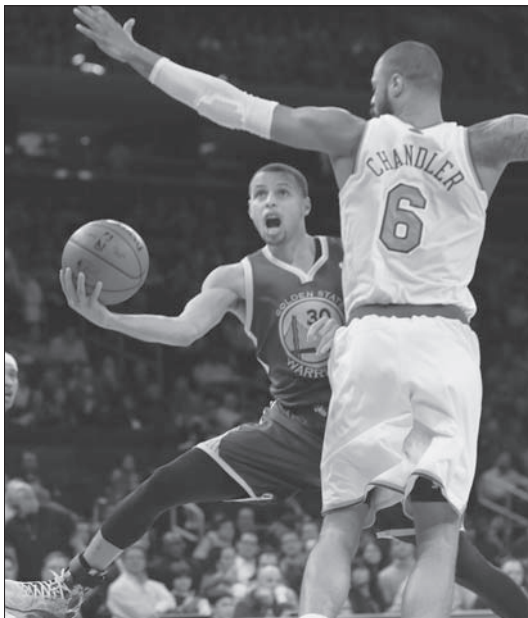
Returning to the site of his sensational shooting performance of a year ago, when he scored a career-high 54 points on 11 of 13 shooting from three-point range, Curry showed off his entire skill set in this one.

"To get a win this year is bigger than any stats, but to play well and to impact the game the way I wanted to, it definitely felt great," Curry said.

Curry joined LeBron James as the only visiting players with a 50-point game and a triple-double at the current MSG, opened in 1968.

Anthony had 23 points and 16 rebounds for the Knicks, blown out for the second straight night in a season that's starting to feel hopeless no matter what the sorry Eastern Conference standings say. They seem to know it, with an agitated Tyson Chandler thrown out in the fourth quarter after picking up two technical fouls, the first for showing Warriors backup Marreese Speights.

"It's not a mental thing, it's a heart thing," Knicks forward J.R. Smith said. "You can't let people score 40, 50 points in the paint over and over again, then we ain't going to win. We ain't going to win games like that."



FRANK FRANKLIN II/AP

Golden State point guard Stephen Curry drives past Knicks center Tyson Chandler on Friday in New York. Curry was spectacular in the Warriors' 126-103 win, pouring in 27 points to go along with 11 rebounds and 11 assists in just three quarters of play.

NFL

Sharper surrenders in LA

LOS ANGELES — Former NFL All-Pro safety Darren Sharper surrendered to Los Angeles police after being named in a warrant involving a rape case in New Orleans.

Sharper, 38, also is under investigation in sexual assault cases in Florida, Nevada and Arizona and has pleaded not guilty to rape charges in Los Angeles.

Sharper's surrender Thursday night had been arranged in advance, LAPD Officer Bruce Borihan said. He was being held at the downtown Metropolitan Detention Center.

Salary cap set at \$133 million

NEW YORK — The NFL's salary cap for this season has been set at \$133 million, the highest amount in league history.

Each team must be compliant with the cap number by March 11, when the league's free agency period begins. The cap amount announced Friday, which applies to active players' salaries, is up from \$123 million last season and surpasses the previous high of \$127,997,000 in 2009.

NFL teams can carry over unused salary cap room from the previous league year, and the NFLPA said in a release Friday that the average carryover for those teams that elected to do so was \$6.1 million.

The league's salary cap is calculated by taking a percentage of all projected NFL revenues, subtracting projected benefits for the season, and dividing by 32 teams.

Pitta gets 5-year deal

OWINGS MILLS, Md. — The Baltimore Ravens and tight end Dennis Pitta reached agreement on a five-year contract Friday.

Pitta, Baltimore's fourth-round pick in 2010, was set to become an unrestricted free agent when free agency starts March 11.

Pitta missed most of 2013 while recovering from a dislocated and fractured hip, but he returned to catch 20 passes for 169 yards and a touchdown in the final four games.

He had 61 catches for 669 yards and seven touchdowns during the 2012 regular season and then added 14 catches for 163 yards and three touchdowns in the playoffs in helping the Ravens win the Super Bowl.

In another signing:

■ The Chargers signed their top unrestricted free agent, inside linebacker Donald Butler, to a new contract Friday.

Seahawks release Rice, Bryant

Wide receiver Sidney Rice and defensive end Red Bryant were released by the Seattle Seahawks on Friday, giving the Super Bowl champions additional salary cap space as free agency approaches.

Seattle made the expected roster moves official eight days before teams can start speaking with potential free agents. Bryant had spent his entire career with the Seahawks after being a fourth-round draft pick in 2008, while Rice signed as a free agent before the 2011 season.

In other moves:

■ The New England Patriots released safety Steve Gregory.

■ The New York Jets placed the franchise tag on reliable kicker Nick Folk on Friday after he had perhaps the best season of his seven-year NFL career. Folk made \$780,000 last season, but the franchise tag estimate for kickers is about \$3.4 million for this season.

■ The Carolina Panthers used the franchise tag on Greg Hardy on Friday, preventing the outspoken defensive end from hitting the free agent market.

Hardy will make \$12.45 million next season.

The team also re-signed kicker Graham Gano to a four-year contract. Financial terms of that deal were not released.



JEFF SINGER, CHARLOTTE OBSERVER/MCT

Tight end Jimmy Graham, top, will earn at least \$7.04 million this season as the Saints' franchise player at tight end.

Saints 'franchise' Graham

Tag means tight end stands to earn at least \$7.04 million

BY BRETT MARTEL
The Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — The New Orleans Saints on Friday placed their franchise tag on Jimmy Graham in order to protect the club's rights to its star tight end through next season.

The move means Graham, barring a holdout, will almost certainly play for New Orleans next season for no less than the tight end franchise tag of \$7.04 million.

It is also possible, under the NFL's collective bargaining agreement, that Graham could be tagged as a receiver because of how often he lined up split wide from the line. That would carry a tag of \$12.3 million.

Once Graham's tag has been determined, the two sides could continue to argue that matter before an arbitrator. That appears to be the likely process as both sides aim to determine precisely how much negotiating leverage they have before hammering out a long-term deal.

Similarly, the Saints used their franchise tag on quarterback Drew Brees in March 2012, then needed a little more than four months to work out the five-year, \$100 million deal Brees signed shortly before training camp.

Like Brees, Graham is represented by Creative Artists Agency. They do not have the same agent. Graham is represented by Jimmy Sexton and Brees by Tom Condon.

The move, confirmed by team spokesman Greg Bensel, was expected as part of what is widely anticipated to be a protracted negotiation between the team and one of the best young tight ends in the NFL.

Graham said publicly during the Pro Bowl in February that it would be "unfortunate," if the team used the franchise tag on him, but on Friday he reacted to the move with subtle humor.

Afterward, Graham wrote on his Twitter account, "Confirming it's officially Franchisefriday... TAG ... I guess I'm it."

Graham, a former college basketball player who played one year of football at Miami, was drafted by the Saints in 2010. Last season, he led the Saints in catches with 86, yards with 1,215 and touchdowns with 16.

He has led the Saints in catches in each of the past three seasons, while leading the club in yards receiving and touchdowns in two of the last three seasons.

During the past three regular seasons combined, he has 270 catches for 3,507 yards and 36 touchdowns.



BILL HABER/AP

New Orleans Saints tight end Jimmy Graham was a basketball player in college at Miami and played football one season.

MLB

Francisco reminds Brewers of potential

Milwaukee slugger still has power

By GENARO C. ARMAS
The Associated Press

PHOENIX — An overlooked candidate in the competition for the Milwaukee Brewers first base job sent two big reminders that he's in the running.

The quiet Juan Francisco can leave quite the impression at the plate. He hit solo home runs in consecutive at-bats against the Athletics this week in the Brewers' spring opener.

"When he squares up balls, it doesn't matter what part of the park" that he hits it, Brewers manager Ron Roenicke said. "Only a handful of guys have his kind of power."

Like the 502-foot homer Francisco crushed in 2011 as a member of the Cincinnati Reds that cleared Great American Ballpark, it's still impressive to watch replays of that blast.

"Nah, I'm not that powerful ... No, no," Francisco said Friday, blushing after being relayed Roenicke's praise.

But the left-handed slugger has never found a comfortable home. The strikeouts hurt.

Traded at midseason from Atlanta last season, Francisco was moved from third to first to try to fill the hole left by the injury to

Corey Hart. Francisco ended up hitting 13 homers with 32 RBIs in 89 games for the Brewers, hitting .221 with 95 strikeouts.

Not good enough to start regularly down the stretch, let alone ensure a spot in 2014. The Brewers signed veterans Lyle Overbay and Mark Reynolds to minor league deals with designs that they might also be potential options at first.

Francisco went back to his native Dominican Republic in the offseason and played winter ball, where he said he worked on getting rid of a hitch in his swing. According to Roenicke and hitting coach Johnny Narmon, Francisco was trying to get away from a leg kick and working on keeping both hands on his bat.

Whatever he did, it worked on Day 1.

"I have to keep working," Francisco said.

He's a man of few words to reporters. Going into his sixth year in the league, Francisco feels a bit more comfortable talking to fellow Latin players, Roenicke said.

Mainly though, Francisco appears to speak to himself. With a quiet, intense demeanor, the 6-foot-2, 238-pound Francisco can strike a downright intimidating frame befitting of someone who



GREGORY BULL/AP

The Brewers' Juan Francisco, right, looks skyward after hitting his second home run of the day as Oakland catcher Derek Norris looks on during the second inning of a spring training game on Thursday.

hopes to be a feared power hitter.

Makes sense that one of his idols is 6-foot-4 slugger David Ortiz of the Red Sox.

"I like his hitting. He's my favorite," Francisco said.

Ultimately, Francisco may have to show he's just as adept around the bag. The Brewers liked Reynolds and Overbay because each player had extensive experience at first, especially Overbay.

When asked, Francisco said footwork around the bag was one area of concentration. If he can keep hitting homers this spring, it will be hard for the Brewers to not find a spot for him.

Braves OF B.J. Upton regrouping after slump

By KRISTIE RIEKEN
The Associated Press

KISSIMMEE, Fla. — B.J. Upton was suffering through the most dreadful season of his career and little brother Justin was in the same Atlanta clubhouse, a perfect shoulder to lean on as he navigated through the unfathomable time.

But he didn't seek comfort from him. In fact, he didn't reach out to anyone for help.

"It was difficult, but I'm kind of a loner," Upton told The Associated Press, his gaze fixed skyward as he sat in the dugout on a recent dreary day in spring camp. "I handle things my own way. That's just kind of the way it is."

Justin is three years B.J.'s junior, shorter and stockier, but in his face and the timbre of his voice, the resemblance is unmistakable.

The younger Upton shook his head when asked if it surprised him that B.J. didn't ask for his support when he dealt with hitting just .184 and being benched in his first year with the Braves. The season-long slump came after he signed a five-year, \$75.25 million contract.

"Nobody's going to help you fix yourself," Justin said. "People take that a little too far, I think. Until something clicks with you in your mind things won't go the right direction. You have to fix yourself before anyone else can."

OK, but surely B.J. talked to his parents, with whom he's very close, about his problems.

Nope. Not his mother and not even his father, Manny "Bossman" Upton, his namesake



ALEX BRANDON/AP

Atlanta Braves center fielder B.J. Upton hits a pitch during a spring training workout on Monday in Kissimmee, Fla.

and the reason the man born Melvin Emanuel is known as "Bossman Junior" or simply B.J.

"What could anyone really say to me? None of them had gone through what I had gone through last year," he said. "Nobody could relate, so I dealt with it on my own." So he'd trudge home following each bad game and try to sort through things solo.

"I'd go home and regroup and come back

the next day to work and try to fix it," he said. "It just never panned out."

The center fielder's distaste at confiding in anyone about just how much his struggles bothered him didn't stop scores of people from offering unsolicited advice. It seemed there was someone at every turn with a proposed solution to his woes.

"And that's the problem," he said, "everybody wants to throw in their two cents all the time and you start trying to listen to everybody and before you know it you've got 100 people in your head. And you're trying to play with him telling you something and him telling you something, and you just kind of take it with you to the field."

The 29-year-old, who was the second overall pick in the 2002 draft by Tampa Bay and made his major league debut at just 19, doesn't fault those who reached out to him. But, he believes at almost 30, he should be able to handle things alone.

"They want to help, but I just think sometimes you can get too much information and that's kind of what happened," he said. "It just kind of snowballed. I started off struggling, kind of hit the panic button and it never stopped."

His contract was the biggest ever given to a free agent by the Braves, a fact that Upton said led to a "bad situation." He was so busy striving to live up to the expectations put on him by such a huge deal that he let it affect his play.

But lofty expectations aren't anything new for Upton, who was touted as a five-tool, game-changing player when he was drafted out of high school. He became a key starter for Tampa Bay, hitting seven home runs in the postseason when the

Rays reached the World Series in 2008, becoming the first player in franchise history to hit for the cycle a year later and stealing more than 40 bases in three consecutive seasons.

Despite those accomplishments he remained a prime target for criticism in part because he was never exactly what he was predicted to be as a teenager.

He narrows his perpetually sleepy eyes and something (anger? annoyance?) briefly flashes across his face at the mention of "five-tool player." It's evident he's grown weary of shouldering outside expectations of what he should or shouldn't be.

"All of that. I'm over all that," he said after a deep breath. "I'm just like, 'Leave me alone and let me play. Just let me play the game. Stop putting a number or tag on something of what people expect. Just leave me alone and let me play. I'll be fine.'"

When Upton discusses 2013, he does it with a dismissive tone, certain it was simply an aberration — his rock bottom he's sure to rise from this season.

"Last year was done a long time ago," he said. "I'm just not really worried about anything. I don't know if that's a bad thing. I'm just like: 'Whatever.'"

And for him a long time ago wasn't during some quiet reflection this offseason. No. He let the negativity of last year go as the Braves took the field for the NL division series against the Los Angeles Dodgers.

"When I started sitting the bench in the playoffs — I went from starting to a defensive replacement," he said.

It was then he made a vow to himself. "This won't happen again," he told the only person he relies on for guidance. "I know it won't happen again."

SPORTS



Powerful reminder
Brewers' Francisco making
impression at plate | **Page 31**

NBA

Madison Square mess

Each game critical
as Knicks try to
salvage season

By TIM REYNOLDS
The Associated Press

MIAMI

Something got spilled near where the New York Knicks' bus was parked Thursday morning, which seemed to serve as a perfect microcosm of their season to date.

Wherever they go, a mess follows.

From J.R. Smith being suspended to start the season to Raymond Felton now facing gun charges, the Knicks are on pace for the biggest one-year freefall in franchise history. And with Carmelo Anthony having the option to leave this summer, plus Mike Woodson's future seemingly in jeopardy, New York might have a new look very soon unless things change quickly.

"In the little time you get to yourself you try to reflect on everything, but it's hard," Anthony said Thursday before the Knicks lost their fourth straight, 108-82 to the Miami Heat.

SEE KNICKS ON PAGE 28

**Free
fallin'**

■ Steph Curry goes for triple-double as Warriors hand Knicks fifth straight loss, Page 28

'I don't want to say life or death situation, but it is what it is. These are games that we've got to try to win.'

Carmelo Anthony
Knicks forward, on what his team must do to make the playoffs

Knicks forward Carmelo Anthony has never missed the playoffs over the course of his 10-year NBA career. Now, with New York sitting in 11th place in the Eastern Conference and six games back of the eighth and final playoff spot, that streak appears to be in jeopardy.

JASON DECKROW/AP

WAC suspends two New Mexico St. players after brawl | **Page 27**